



THE HEALTH OF HITCHIN

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1967

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HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Members as at 31st December, 1967:

Chairman of the Council

COUNCILLOR S. F. SANDERS, J.P.

Chairman of the Public Health Committee

COUNCILLOR P. J. MARCHANT

W. H. GATES

G. F. HENDRY

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MRS B. F. WEARMOUTH

Medical Officer of Health

J. D. HALL, M.R.C.S.(ENG.), L.R.C.P.(LOND.), D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

N. HOLT, F.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

H. FORREST, M.A.P.H.I.

PREFACE

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BRAND STREET
HITCHIN

To the Chairman and Members of Hitchin Urban District Council

MR CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

A hundred and twenty years ago a report was made to the General Board of Health by Dr John Simon which was the first recognisable report of a medical officer of health. Dr Simon, later Sir John Simon, was to be successively Medical Officer to the Privy Council and to the Local Government Board, and his reports in successive years were to become a model for all future medical officers of health. His most famous work, *English Sanitary Institutions*, last published in 1897, although written in the most florid of Victorian prose, is a standard work which all concerned with the development of the health and welfare services in this country should read. Sir John Simon's reports, however, like those of his successors, are noted for their appalling dullness, verbosity and lack of appeal to the ordinary reader. The annual reports of a medical officer of health are, quite rightly, frequently criticised on all these counts, and many suggestions have been made over the years for their improvement; some have gone so far as to say, and this includes some medical officers of health themselves, that the radical cure of total abolition is the only course; others that they should be dismissed as quickly as possible and contain only that statistical information which the Minister demands; and yet others that they should become a sort of magazine. There is however one particular purpose which such an annual report should serve – it should illustrate more clearly than any other document can, to strangers to the area the type of environment, whether a good and safe district in which to bring up children, whether a growing or declining area, and the adequacy of the health and welfare services, and such information should be available without any special knowledge of medical statistics. With these aims in view, therefore, I have tried to produce a report – only the preface of which it is essential to read – in which statistical information is reduced to a minimum; the usual statistical tables are all available in the text as in previous years, but all deductions made from them are now included in the preface and it is hoped that this annual report will be both more informative and more interesting in this way.

For those who wish to study the statistics themselves more closely and particularly for those new members who may be unfamiliar with medical statistics, an addendum will be found at the end of the preface giving a brief definition of the various rates, and brief details of factors which may influence those rates and the deduction which may be made from them.

The population increased by almost three times as many as in 1966 and the very great majority of this increase was due to movement into the town. The birthrate was higher than the previous year and again was higher than the remainder of England and Wales and the county as a whole. There were no maternal deaths. The deaths of children under the age of one were lower than for 1966 and were again less than for the remainder of the country and county; less deaths in fact occurred from a higher number of births than in the previous year. It is pleasing to report that almost all the rates relating to the first year of life are considerably lower than those elsewhere. The total number of deaths from all causes was slightly lower than in 1966 and the death-rate itself was rather lower than elsewhere in the country. The commonest cause of death was again diseases of the heart and blood vessels, and there was a slight, but not significant, increase in the number of deaths from cancer. There were no deaths from tuberculosis or any other common infectious disease and no epidemic occurred in Hitchin during 1967 of any significance. There were rather more deaths from motor vehicle accidents during 1967 than in 1966, but the numbers were very small. There were three deaths from suicide. The state of the public health in Hitchin can therefore be described as most satisfactory.

The 1966 sample census gave details for each local authority of the population distribution as to age and sex, countries of origin, movement in and out of the area, occupation, car ownership, household composition and social class structure; these figures have been analysed and are shown elsewhere in the report as comparative histograms. The study of these graphs reveals interesting, if slight, differences between the populations of each district; although for the six districts of North Hertfordshire the

overall impression is one of similarity rather than difference. Stevenage, for example, might have been expected to have shown more differences from the rest of the area than in fact is revealed by these figures. The town would appear to be rapidly stabilising itself and acquiring the population patterns of very much older communities; an interesting and fairly remarkable achievement in so short a time, particularly if compared with the experiences of other new towns.

The census analyses the population into five social classes: (i) professional, etc.; (ii) an intermediate, ill-defined group, between social classes (i) and (iii); (iii) skilled workers, for example, mineworkers, transport and clerical workers, non-commissioned members of the armed forces; (iv) intermediate between (iii) and (v), for example, agricultural workers and others; and (v) unskilled workers, building and dock labourers. The classification is arbitrary and it should be particularly noted that it is not related to wealth. Social Class (iii) is particularly unsatisfactory, since it lends itself to invidious comparisons between, for example, the skill of a cabinet maker and a hewer and getter at a coal-face, both of whom are classified, from an occupational aspect, in the same social class. The social classifications require revision.

The town has a slight preponderance of females over males, but a slight preponderance of single men over single women. The age group 30-59 is the most numerous (50 per cent). In the age group 65 and over, Hitchin is second only to Hitchin Rural District in its proportion of the aged. The social structure of Hitchin is very similar to the rest of North Hertfordshire and the town has more households with no motor car than neighbouring districts. By contrast, however, it is second only to Hitchin Rural District in its ownership of two or more cars. Its percentage of households with no family is very similar to that of Hitchin Rural District and higher than the remainder of North Hertfordshire, correspondingly, the percentage of households with one family is lower than elsewhere and its incidence of multi-occupation resembles Letchworth and Baldock, although this does not reflect the problem in Hitchin. It would appear that almost as many work outside the authority area as work within it; the predominant occupation is again the manufacturing and construction industries, and a quarter of the population work in distribution trades, for example shops and non-manufacturing. A higher proportion of the residents of Hitchin than elsewhere were born outside the British Isles.

The report of the working party on refuse collection appointed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in May 1963 was issued in mid-1967. The report recommended that only two systems would in the future be considered suitable - continental dustless loading and collection by paper sack. The Council and your chief public health inspector are to be congratulated that the district is almost wholly on a paper-sack system and that early in 1961 this method of house-to-house refuse collection was to be permanently adopted. Special collections of large items of household refuse continued, and there has been continuing demand for this free service; during 1967 2,077 such collections were made. The chief public health inspector remarks elsewhere in the report upon the difficulties which arise due to insufficient provision at the planning stage being made for the storage of refuse in new shops and offices.

A serious problem during 1967 was presented by itinerant scrap-metal dealers, camped for several weeks on the grass verge of the Stotfold road. The relative permanency of their stay can be assessed by the efforts of one caravan dweller to asphalt the grass verge surrounding the caravan. A petition from local residents was received and their complaints were justified. The verges and hedges were littered with paper and scrap metal, the hedges themselves being used frequently as public conveniences, producing a public health hazard. I would congratulate the Police, and in particular Divisional Chief Superintendent Day for the way in which they dealt with the problem.

Last year's report referred to the serious smoke nuisance caused by a hand-fired boiler, and this has been solved by the conversion to automatic stoking. It should be noted also that the change from steam locomotives to diesel has resulted in a noticeable reduction in the emissions of dark smoke in the station area. Although Section 3 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, requires that the installation of a new furnace shall be notified to the local authority, unless it is a furnace designed solely or mainly for use for domestic purposes and is not a furnace with a maximum heating capacity of 55,000 or more British thermal units per hour, routine inspections of premises reveal the installation of several new boilers without any notification: in each case the occupiers were informed of their responsibility under the Act.

Inspections of houses in multiple occupations, chiefly occupied by Commonwealth immigrants, continued during 1967. The limitations of numbers of individuals in these houses is effected under

Section 19 of the Housing Act, 1961. Four convictions were obtained for offences in relation to such houses and during the year the Council re-housed seven families, and it is hoped that more re-housings of this nature will become possible in the future.

Fourteen complaints were received and investigated during the year about food, and the chief public health inspector's report should be referred to for a most full and interesting account of his investigations. The foreign objects found included a metal screw in a loaf of bread, wood in a packet of potato crisps, hair in cooking fat, threadworms in fish. Food inspections of this nature are a most important and valuable part of a public health inspector's duty. I would congratulate the chief public health inspector on his vigilance. The sale of food in an unsatisfactory condition is altogether too common and, in view of the danger presented to the public, every case should be treated with gravity.

CHILD HEALTH

Attendances at infant welfare clinics increased by 25 per cent which reflects the continuing need for such local health authority provision. The large number of clinics required over the area impose a burden on staffing due to the increasing difficulties in the recruitment of medical and nursing staffs. The clinics provide facilities for medical examinations, and consultations for immunisation and vaccination, and for the sale of proprietary foods.

A new small clinic was completed in Letchworth in 1967 on the Jackmans Estate.

New clinic building in the future will most probably include provision for general practitioners. The objections among the latter to the concept of health centres have now diminished, and the tendency is to the grouping of all community health services.

In 1964 a subcommittee was set up under the chairmanship of Sir Wilfred Sheldon to reassess the medical functions and medical staffing of child welfare centres. The subcommittee reported in 1967.

The child welfare service of today had its formal foundations in the Maternity and Child Welfare Act of 1918. The National Health Service Act of 1946 imposed a statutory duty on local health authorities to arrange for the care of expectant and nursing mothers and young children.

The recent report of the subcommittee referred to the continuing need for local health authority services, but inferred that in the future it might well form part of a health service provided by family doctors working from purpose-built family health centres.

The 1967 subcommittee recommended that routine medical inspections of young children should continue and that advice should be given by the clinic doctor and health visitor. The early detection of defects should continue to be a major duty of the clinic medical officers. The subcommittee considered that child psychiatrists should not be regularly employed in such clinics but that the clinic doctor and health visitor had an important role to play in the diagnosis and treatment of behaviour disorders.

The sub-committee also recommended that health education should be an increasing part of a child health service and also that welfare foods need not necessarily be sold at such clinics. It also made the recommendation for the need of special training both for local health authority medical officers and general practitioners in this special field and that the organisation of the child health service should remain under the medical officer of health.

The report stressed the need for a high standard of premises, for the introduction of an appointment system and for the establishment of a universal record form. The subcommittee considered that the closest co-operation between the child health service and the school health service should be maintained so that the transition to school life should be as smooth as possible.

The subcommittee report reinforced what is already occurring in this division and in the main re-established the principles upon which the child health services are already run. It is interesting that the report did not suggest the immediate handing-over of such local authority services to the family doctors, but it anticipated that in the years to come their role would be of increasing importance.

There seems no doubt that for the immediate future the infant welfare clinics will continue to form an essential part of the preventive health service of this country.

During 1967 the procedure for observing those infants considered to be "at risk" was revised. Certain conditions occurring in the mother before, during and immediately after birth, constitute a potential hazard to the child's future development. Children, therefore, in the following categories: family history of deafness; family history of diabetes; ante-partum haemorrhage; rhesus incompatibility; rubella in first four months of pregnancy; severe toxæmia; nephritis during pregnancy;

difficult labour; anoxia; birth weight $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb or less; cerebral damage; neo-natal jaundice – are placed on a special Observation Register from birth and are examined by a medical officer at the age of three months, one year, two years, three years and four years. In the majority of cases the child is found to be perfectly normal and is then removed from observation. All appointments for this special medical examination are delivered personally by a health visitor in order that the mother is not unnecessarily alarmed. Infants who suffer from no apparent handicap at birth and who do not fall into the above categories, but subsequently develop a condition, may be added to the register at any stage. The keeping of such a register, although a laborious duty, means that before school entry any possible educational handicap is known and special arrangements can, therefore, be made and the divisional educational officer is notified of all children who are in any way handicapped. It is anticipated that a further development of this scheme will be the setting up of a child health assessment unit, together with the local consultant paediatrician, for the full assessment of the child. Such a unit would be a promising development in child health.

Perinatal death rates, i.e. the number of deaths occurring the first week of life, per thousand live and still births continued to show no decrease and it is this fraction of the total infant mortality rate, i.e. the number of deaths occurring in the first year of life per thousand live births, which makes the latter difficult to reduce. It is known that the perinatal death rate in England and Wales is higher than in Scandinavia and Holland. It has been said that the perinatal death rate is reduced when the maternal age and family size is low. It is possible, therefore, that increased use of family planning will reduce this rate. In Holland, however, the birth rate is high and the rate is low. It is clear that our knowledge of the factors influencing this rate is still limited. In Scandinavia almost all deliveries take place in hospital and this increasing trend in this country might be an important factor in reducing such death rates. In considering admission to Maternity Units the adverse effect of a lower social class rating on perinatal death rates should always be remembered. Women in social classes (iv) and (v) tend to be poorer in physique, to be more unsatisfactorily housed and to make the least use of the available maternity services. The stillbirth rate, for example, decreases regularly as the social class rises. It is likely that the perinatal mortality rate will not be further reduced until all babies are delivered in hospital, whether this be a general practitioner unit or a maternity hospital and that domiciliary midwives in the future will have to adapt themselves to returning once more to the attendance of confinements in hospital.

Section 22 of the National Health Service Act of 1946 empowers local authorities to provide or aid the provision of day nurseries for children under five. Parents are expected to make payments according to their means. The Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act of 1948 authorises the keeping of registers of day nurseries and their supervision by local health authorities. Admissions of children to this single day nursery in the division have to be carefully regulated and the following categories for admission have been established: Children of widows or widowers; unmarried mothers; deserted wives or husbands; parents in prison; parents suffering from chronic illness or disablement; temporary cases, for example, mother's illness or confinement; children recommended by doctor or health visitor for temporary help; children of parents coming within the "Essential Services" categories – for example, teachers and nurses (Local Committee Members' approval required); children living in bad housing conditions; and children of families where there was a risk of break-up in the family.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

No cases of poliomyelitis occurred in the area as compared with 1966, in which there was one case of paralytic poliomyelitis, but no death. Although the number of cases of poliomyelitis have now reached their lowest ever figure, naturally cases still occur. Intensive poliomyelitis vaccination campaigns in other countries have eradicated the disease completely and this should also be our aim. Parents should be encouraged to ensure that their children are so protected.

No cases of typhoid, paratyphoid or serious food poisoning occurred during the year. There are still, however, far too many instances in which dangerous organisms are isolated from food and there is a need in the area for food handlers and retailers to be more scrupulous about their personal hygiene and the condition of food shops. A great deal of time is wasted by public health inspectors in visits to shops in which, if elementary precautions had been taken, no danger would arise. The measures which should be taken by food retailers and their staffs are simple and straightforward. They include attention to ordinary domestic cleanliness in the shop itself, which should at all times be spotless,

the cleansing of containers and utensils, the non-hoarding of scraps, the keeping of all food under refrigerated conditions, the prohibition by shop owners from food handling of any member of the staff suffering from an infective skin condition or from any intestinal disorder, the encouragement of stalls to wash their hands frequently and preferably to dry their hands by hot air or paper towels, and the extensive use of mild disinfectants. If these precautions were scrupulously kept, the incidence of food poisoning outbreaks would dramatically lessen. The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966, and subsequent amending regulations, came into force in January 1967 largely because conditions of food handling in open-air trading had not improved following the introduction of the Food Hygiene Regulations in 1955. The 1955 Regulations and the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations of 1960 were less demanding in their requirements for food stores and food vehicles than for food premises and it became clear that control over open-air trading needed to be strengthened and to be brought more closely into line with those applying to food premises under the general regulations. The new food hygiene regulations apply to any handling or trading in food in any market or market premises or away from other fixed premises and they also apply both to food delivery vehicles and to mobile food shops. The principal requirements of the 1966 Food Hygiene Regulations are concerned with the cleanliness of food stalls, food delivery vehicles and equipment, the hygienic handling of food, the cleanliness of food handlers and their clothing, the actions to be taken in cases of infections liable to cause food poisoning, the storage temperatures of certain food-stuffs, the provision of water supply and washing facilities, the proper disposal of waste, the separation of food for human consumption from any food unfit for human consumption, and provisions for the granting by local authorities of certificates of exemption in appropriate cases. It is hoped that these regulations will help to improve the state of the public health.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The vaccination state of North Hertfordshire is not satisfactory. It is clear that smallpox would be introduced into a relatively unprotected community and the public should be aware that vaccination as an emergency measure produces little or no immediate protection. Complications are lessened by vaccination under the age of two years and parents are urged firstly to have their children vaccinated against smallpox as a matter of routine, and secondly to request such treatment before the age of two is reached.

No cases of diphtheria occurred during the year. Twenty cases occurred, however, in England and Wales (1966) with five deaths, and it must be emphasised that freedom from this killing disease depends on the level of immunity of the population and diphtheria immunisation programmes must be maintained.

Thirty-three cases of whooping cough occurred during 1967. The incidence of this disease fluctuates for reasons which are ill understood. Pertussis is a potentially dangerous disease in infancy and vaccination against it must not be relaxed.

No cases of tetanus occurred, but so dangerous is this disease to life that no parent must allow their child to remain unprotected.

Vaccination against poliomyelitis is now performed entirely by the use of Sabin oral vaccine. Three doses of vaccine by mouth are given in the first year of life, followed by a booster dose at the age of three years.

There were no cases of the disease in the area in 1967 but the vaccination rate is barely satisfactory.

Since the use of vaccines, deaths from poliomyelitis have been remarkably reduced. In 1966, 23 cases occurred, with one death in England and Wales. This represented the lowest incidence of mortality yet recorded.

TUBERCULOSIS

Miniature mass radiography, skin testing and B.C.G. vaccination, tracing and treatment of contacts, greatly improved methods of treatment, pasteurisation of milk have all reduced the incidence of tuberculosis in this county. The disease is now almost never seen in its chronic wasting form or the acute fatal attacks which killed so many in the past. Without the introduction of particularly susceptible immigrant groups, including the Irish, to this county, it would not have been impossible to eradicate the disease entirely.

Cases, however, are still notified and each family must be visited, skin tested and chest x-rayed. When a case occurs in a school, either in a teacher or a pupil, in many instances the whole school

must be skin tested and the teaching staff x-rayed. During 1967, 120 children in one school were screened and 72 in a play group. Both the chest x-rays and the skin tests were satisfactory and no epidemic resulted.

Skin testing and B.C.G. vaccination are performed routinely in all school children, including private schools, between the ages of 11 and 13. A negative skin test, showing that the child has not received its natural unperceived infection in the community, is an indication for the giving of vaccine.

VENEREAL DISEASES

The figures available for venereal diseases do not suggest that a serious problem exists in North Hertfordshire.

It must be remembered, however, that some patients will attend London hospitals and their number is not known.

The low number of new cases of syphilis and the very high proportion of cases other than syphilis and gonorrhoea should be noted: these other venereal diseases included non-gonococcal urethritis and a group of conditions, for the most part imported from warmer countries, such as chancroid, lympho-granuloma venereum and granuloma inguinale.

The last available national figure for 1966 shows that the rise in the incidence of infectious syphilis which occurred in 1965 has been followed by a decline. The Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health suggests that most probably this fall is due to more active contact-tracing and tribute is paid in this report to the work of local health authority staffs in this respect. It is not always appreciated that contacts of cases treated in venereal disease clinics throughout the country are notified to the medical officer of health of the area concerned; these contacts are then visited and persuaded to attend hospital for investigation and treatment. This work, which is carried out by health visitors, is not easy and requires the exercise of considerable tact. During 1967 two such contacts were notified from the London clinics and both were persuaded to accept treatment.

Health education, particularly in the field of sexual relationships, is of special importance, and a working party with representatives from the Ministry of Health and the Department of Education and Science was set up to study this field. A film-strip has been produced suitable for showing to the higher age groups in secondary schools and it is understood that a pamphlet is in the course of preparation designed for teachers to deal effectively with the subject. The Central Council for Health Education takes an active interest in this work, and co-operates with the British Federation Against the Venereal Diseases.

Nationally, although the incidence of syphilis has declined, gonorrhoea has remained at a high level. The age incidence of gonorrhoea is of some interest: in 1966, 14 per cent of patients were under the age of 20 years, and 160 girls and 52 boys under the age of 16 were found to be suffering from the disease. It is perhaps of some interest that the overwhelming proportion of cases of syphilis and gonorrhoea are contracted at home and are not brought in from abroad.

CYTOLOGY CLINICS

1967 was the first full year in which the cervical cytology clinics were held in the North Hertfordshire Division and the attendance figures were disappointing. The population at risk from cancer of the cervix, i.e. women aged 30 and over, are shown in the table for each district and as a total for the whole division. Since, in fact, no female is turned away from these clinics, a more realistic appreciation of the population at risk is perhaps from the age of 20 upwards and this figure also is included in the table. The percentage of attendances for women at risk were 4 per cent based on the female population aged 20 and over and 5 per cent on a population aged 30 and over. It is clear from these figures that the cervical cytology clinics are not being properly used and consideration will have to be given during the coming year - 1968 - to an increase in publicity. It should be remembered, however, that to a certain extent the number of women attending these clinics has been limited by the number of smears that can be dealt with at the hospital; and this has been limited to twenty each session, the waiting lists are now, however, very much reduced. Only one case of cancer of the cervix was discovered. This would suggest that the value of cervical cytology is debatable. It must be remembered, however, that probably the most important aspect of these clinics is the examination of the breasts and the full internal examination which is carried out by the medical officer. Cancer of the breast is the third commonest cancer and by far the commonest for women.

CANCER

The death rate from cancer of the breast continued to increase coincidentally with the declining birth rate and the increase in contraception. It is known that cancer of the breast is less common in those women who have borne four or more children, and that it is more common in those countries in which breast-feeding is declining, as in England. If, in fact, cancer of the breast is more common in women bearing less than four children, the reduction of family size may increase the risk of death from cancer of the breast in middle age. Cancer of the lung continued to increase. The increase is particularly marked in women. It is now socially acceptable for women to smoke, even in public, and it is reasonable to infer that this increase of lung cancer in women is due to an increase in cigarette consumption. The number of deaths from cancer of the lung are very much higher than from motor accidents and since the disease is equally preventable, it might be considered that some of the efforts, including legislation, applied to the prevention of the latter, could also be applied to the former. The most recent national figures available (those for 1966) reveal that 31,000 people may have died from this condition during 1966 as compared with 18,000 in 1965 and 8,000 in 1946. A comparison of these figures with the amount of tobacco sold as manufactured cigarettes in millions of pounds shows that in 1950 181.7 millions of pounds were sold, and in 1966 223.5. The slight fall in cigarette consumption between 1961 and 1965, which may have been due to the increase in anti-smoking propaganda, has now been reversed, and it would appear that the public are once again beginning to ignore the warnings so frequently given. It is difficult to blame people who disregard these warnings when the only real attempt at prevention has been to prohibit certain forms of cigarette advertising.

FAMILY PLANNING

The National Health Service (Family Planning) Act came into operation in June 1967. The Act conferred on local health authorities a general power to make arrangements for the giving of advice on contraception, the medical examination of persons seeking contraception advice and the supply of contraceptive substances and appliances. The Act also empowered authorities to provide this service on social as well as medical grounds; the new Act, therefore, went beyond the existing powers under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946. The new Act recommended that advice, examination, prescriptions and supplies should be free in medical cases, but that a charge could be made in non-medical cases. It drew no distinction between the married and the unmarried and imposed no limitations upon the age upon which such a service could be given. The County Council have decided for the time being to continue using the services of the Family Planning Association and not themselves to run a direct service. Discussions are now taking place to extend family planning facilities in North Hertfordshire and this will require a further use of local health authority clinic premises.

MIDWIFERY

Twenty-one full-time district nurse/midwives in addition to four part-time district nurse/midwives, six full-time midwives and one part-time midwife were employed in the area at 31st December, 1967.

The average number of confinements attended by each midwife during 1967 was thirty-three; 42 per cent of all deliveries were domiciliary, in contrast with the recommendation of the Cranbrook Committee that 70 per cent of all mothers should be confined in hospital. The number of mothers discharged home within 48 hours of delivery was within the national average in 1967 and is an improvement on the number in 1966, when the early discharge rate exceeded that for the rest of the county. It would seem that the increased number of beds available in the North Hertfordshire Maternity Unit have made it possible for more mothers to stay longer in hospital. It should not be forgotten that shortage of hospital beds for obstetric cases should not be justified by a rationalisation of the benefits to the patient of discharge within 48 hours of delivery. It must be remembered that when early discharges were introduced some years ago considerable medical controversy was raised and that the only reason for its introduction was a shortage of maternity beds. It should not be forgotten also that the burden of early discharge falls entirely upon the staff of the local health authority and not upon the hospital.

All midwives are provided with gas and air apparatus, or trilene, if specially required. Gas and air is being gradually replaced by Entonox – gas and oxygen.

The language problem with immigrants, particularly Indians, produced some difficulty in certain areas. Translation cards showing set sentences did not entirely solve the problem and it was

not easy for the midwives to prepare the mothers for confinement and to explain the management of the case to relatives who spoke only a few words of English.

HEALTH VISITING

Health Visitors are State Registered Nurses who are in addition State Certified Midwives (Part I Certificate only or Parts I and II), who have had one year's post-graduate study in child health and welfare, public health and social legislation.

They are primarily concerned with health education and social advice. They visit ordinary homes and families as well as those subject to stresses and tensions, young harassed mothers and lonely elderly members of the community. They are experts in the nurture of babies and children, and are well aware of their physical, emotional and mental needs.

While their role is mainly the care of mothers with young children, their functions are not restricted to this age group and they have responsibilities in connection with school health, prevention of illnesses, the elderly and chronic sick, the handicapped and helping in the rehabilitation of those recovering from mental and physical illnesses.

They have a wide knowledge of social services, both statutory and voluntary, and are personally acquainted with other workers in local health and welfare services, and can discuss problems with them as well as seek their help.

The attachment of health visitors to family doctors, together with the other nursing staff of the division, continued to work very well during 1967. There is no doubt that the general practitioners are now accustomed to the services that the health visitor can offer, and less queries as to a health visitor's functions are now raised. With only minor exceptions, the relationship between the health visitor and the family doctor is mutually agreeable. The problem, however, of attachment of health visitors with dual or triple appointments in the rural areas and on the boundaries of other divisional areas, has not yet been properly solved.

Twenty-four health visitors were employed during 1967 with the assistance of twelve State Registered Nurses who attended school and infant welfare clinic sessions. The number of visits to aged persons increased by 38 per cent in 1967 and were themselves time-consuming, particularly to those who lived alone and becoming increasingly dependent upon outside contact. Tribute should be paid to voluntary workers of all kinds who are always so willing to help. An improved "nightsitter" service, especially during the winter months, would be of great advantage but the recruitment position is most unsatisfactory.

During 1967 a health visitors' training course was formed at the Stevenage College of Further Education and this should help to ease the recruiting situation which is still very difficult.

HOME NURSING

District Nurses are State Registered Nurses who have taken a post-graduate course to obtain either the Certificate of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, or the National Certificate in District Nursing.

Their aim is to provide comprehensive care to the patients in their own homes, and their responsibilities, therefore, include adapting their hospital skills to the home environment, becoming aware of the nursing and social needs of the patient and his relatives, and using every opportunity of health education.

The staff of the home nursing service in the division at 31st December, 1967, consisted of seven full-time district nurses and seven part-time district nurses; twenty-one full-time district nurse/midwives and four part-time district nurse/midwives.

The home nurses and health visitors are often instrumental in arranging financial relief for patients through such agencies as the National Society for Cancer Relief and the Marie Curie Fund. Those requiring such help were referred to the National Society for Cancer Relief whilst in hospital. I am grateful for the help which we receive from these voluntary organisations.

A Night Nursing Service has been established, and two State Enrolled Nurses have been employed for this purpose. The strain experienced by relatives in nursing terminal illnesses can be relieved by the provision of a nurse. This service was restricted by the shortage of available staff.

Sixty-six per cent of all visits were made to the over-65 age group. The greater proportion of the work of the district nurse is now concerned with the over-65's and this is reflected in the increasing proportion of local authority costs for this age group. This disproportionate expenditure will continue

to rise as the number of aged increases. Some of the increase was in part due to older relatives moving into Stevenage. There was an increase also in 1967 in the number of patients in the terminal stages of illness: many in the under-65 age group.

The number of sessions held by district nurses in general practitioners' surgeries increased during the year and this was a great help in saving time for both patients and nurses. At one purpose-built surgery a district nurses' room has been included and it is possible, therefore, for all types of treatment to be carried out, but in general it is seldom possible to do more than give injections.

During the year arrangements were made for district nurses to receive in-service training in mental health and this was of some help to them in providing insight into the needs of patients returning home after mental hospital treatment.

HANDICAPPED AND ELDERLY

The shortage of geriatric beds continued to cause difficulty during 1967 and there was a heavy demand for residential accommodation.

The diagnoses and numbers of handicapped persons in North Hertfordshire is shown in table form. It will be observed that the commonest cause of handicapping was arthritis and that five times as many women suffered from this condition as men, mainly because of the greater life expectancy of women. The second commonest cause of handicapping which required assistance from the local health and welfare authority was paralysis agitans. Absence of limbs following amputation was the third commonest cause; multiple sclerosis was responsible for 8 per cent of cases, followed by the after-effects of cerebral haemorrhage and cerebral thrombosis.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Health education is a transfer of what is known about health; it is the attainment of desirable individual and community behaviour patterns by means of the education process. The basic needs of a health education problem may be summarised as: obtaining the basic information, the recognition of the need for a change in the behaviour of the individual and the knowledge of the means for carrying this out by education methods. This may be compared with the teachings of Buddha whose thesis was as follows: "unhappiness exists in the world, a cause for this exists, the cause is removable, by what means can this cause be removed?" It is important in any health education programme to consider the health needs and the characteristics of the people for whom the programme is intended; many programmes have failed because of this lack of fundamental understanding.

In general, health education in the public health field is carried out in the following ways:

1. *Individual teaching by physicians, etc.*

The patient is most receptive at the time of illness.

By general practitioners and local health authority staffs.

2. *Group Teaching*

For example, in maternity and child welfare, village groups, civic organisations and hospitals.

3. *Health information services*

This is perhaps the most common method and employs films, newspapers, the B.B.C., pamphlets, etc.

It is most important that these services should be suitable for the particular audience. A useful aphorism for all those concerned in health education is:

"If I hear it I forget, If I see it I remember,

If I do it, I know."

The health education programme in this division includes the teaching of mothercraft and general hygiene to many of the Secondary Modern, Comprehensive and Grammar Schools. Relaxation classes are especially valuable for the special teaching of expectant mothers. Health education is a routine part of the work at all infant welfare clinics.

The health visitors continued to give talks on such subjects as Home Safety, Mothercraft, Hygiene, Child Development, Community Health and Work of the Health Visitors to various groups such as junior school children, mothers' clubs, mothers in infant welfare centres, old people's clubs and Women's Institutes.

The midwives also hold ante-natal instruction classes in each town, to which women expecting their first babies were specially invited.

Posters and demonstrations were arranged in the clinics and more use was made of filmstrips.

HOME HELPS

Seventy per cent of cases helped during 1967 were over 65 and 83 per cent of total hours given was to this group. In contrast, 16 per cent of cases were maternity absorbing only 5 per cent of total hours.

These figures represent a nationally well marked and unavoidable trend, but it is in some ways disappointing that more help could not be given to maternity cases.

It should be remembered that the domestic help service began in 1918 for maternity cases and was extended during the 1939-45 war to include the old and chronic sick. Its purpose, however, was still mainly directed to the care of the mother and child. Over the country as a whole today 92 per cent of the service is devoted to the care of the aged; and since 1949 the amount of help given to mothers has proportionately decreased. Constant price expenditure on the care of the latter has actually fallen in spite of an increase of 17 per cent in the number of births each year.

The total cost of the domestic help service has increased by 305 per cent since 1949 and is surpassed only by the increase in the cost of mental health (423 per cent). This is due to the very great increase in the total number of part-time home helps, the number of whole-time helps having decreased. Such an increase is the more remarkable because of the purely permissive character of this local health authority function and demonstrates the direction in which local health services are being obliged to develop. A recent survey, for example, has suggested that the needs of the aged are not being fully met.

In our natural sympathy for old people, however, we should not forget the importance of mothers and young children to the future; nor should we attempt to replace the family and thus endanger it as a social unit.

The number of domestic helps employed in this division is clearly inadequate (56). Recruitment is extremely difficult owing to the ready availability of employment for women in this area.

The Home Help organisation constantly endeavours to attract women to the service.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

During the sixty years of its existence the school health service has undergone many changes of emphasis. The Education Act of 1907 empowered Education Authorities to provide medical care for school children. This Act followed the work of an inter-departmental Committee of Physical Deterioration which sat in 1903. The disclosure of the Army Recruiting Office during the Second Boer War had revealed that from 48-60 per cent of all recruits were physically unfit for army service. The years that followed the passing of this Education Act included the treatment of minor ailments and defects, the improvement of nutrition and the care of all types of handicapped children. The Royal Commission in 1889 had recommended that "feeble-minded children" who were capable of receiving education should be taught separately from the more normal pupils, and by 1899 the Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Act made it obligatory for all such children to be examined and assessed by a medical officer as to their suitability for education at an ordinary or special school.

The various education, mental deficiency and mental health acts which have followed the first acts have not substantially altered the principles under which the school health service works. One of the more remarkable changes during the long existence of the school health service has been the almost total disappearance of nutritional diseases. Under-nutrition has ceased to be a problem and obesity has taken its place. Most would agree that the cause of obesity in childhood is over-eating by those children with a familial or hereditary tendency to store fat.

The main problems with which the division had to deal during the year were emotional and behavioural disturbances, speech and learning difficulties, respiratory disorders, epilepsy and various types of physical handicap. The infectious diseases which in the past caused the deaths of so many children are no longer a problem. It is interesting in the special schools to note the increase in the number of spina bifida cases. This would appear to be due to the survival of more babies with this condition due to modern surgical techniques.

The problem of occasional pregnancies in school girls in the division, although small, should be observed. It should be remembered that whatever the social implications of such occurrences, from

a medical point of view, pregnancy in girls of 15 or less is attended by some risk. During the years 1961-63, for example, in England Wales four maternal deaths occurred in girls of this age group among 3,211 pregnancies.

MEDICAL RECRUITMENT

Recruitment to the public health services at assistant medical officer level continues to cause anxiety. This division is now deficient of three, or possibly four, whole-time medical officers and in spite of the advertisement of vacancies by the County Council, very few applications are received. This position is reflected over the county and country as a whole and there seems little evidence that the position will improve. The salary of assistant medical officers does not equate with their colleagues either in general practice or in the hospital services, and until this position is rectified it cannot be expected that recently qualified doctors will enter the public health service. This must have a harmful and damaging effect on the services provided since the employment of part-time medical officers is an unsatisfactory substitute. Indeed, part-time medical officers are themselves in short supply. However, at the present moment all the essential services are being maintained but not without some stress and signs of overwork to the whole-time medical staff.

DRUG ADDICTION

The drugs of habituation are morphia, heroin, pethidine, cocaine, amphetamines, and barbiturates, including mixtures of these two drugs, tranquillisers of various types and marihuana. Those who allow themselves to become habituated to such drugs have, for the most part, personality disorders of which they are aware and the drugs are taken in an effort to improve their social adequacy. The drug addict usually knows the consequences, often fatal, of his actions; under the influence of these drugs, however, he appears able to disregard, and even to boast, of the risks.

Although it has been claimed that young people habituated to either drugs of the morphia group, or the amphetamines and barbiturates, are of normal intelligence, it seems unlikely that, in fact, this is so. The average intelligent adolescent does not take drugs and has no need to do so. The inability of these unfortunate young people to conform is shown by an eccentricity of dress, general appearance and behaviour; by their general reluctance to wash and by the exaggeration of these eccentricities resulting from drug taking. It is as though, knowing their defects so well, they seek instead of trying to overcome them to make them more apparent and thus in some way to compensate. The taking of such drugs does no doubt help to remove feelings of inferiority and their belief in the excellence of their own performance may be quite genuinely enhanced. Musicians, for example, of the jazz variety may believe that under the influence of cannabis their playing attains a brilliance normally denied them. In fact, it has been shown that under these conditions their performance is both out of time and tune.

It is difficult sometimes to blame the drug-prone adolescent too much, when apparently mature adults will in public condone drug-taking. It should be stressed, however, that all these drugs have a proper medicinal use and are of the greatest value in certain conditions when prescribed for the patient by the family doctor. Heroin, for example, is the most potent pain-killer known to man. The amphetamines, barbiturates and tranquillisers play a most valuable role in the treatment of mental illness.

The most dangerous drug taken by habitues is heroin, usually injected into a vein and sometimes together with the drug methedrine. Heroin relieves pain, lessens anxiety, produces drowsiness and decreases sexual efficiency. If the addict is unable to obtain regular doses of this drug, most unpleasant withdrawal symptoms occur, disagreeable both for the addict and for the observer. It has been said that a heroin addict lives only six years from the beginning of his addiction. The cause of death is varied and both heroin and cocaine can cause serious brain damage. Mixtures of amphetamines and barbiturates known as "purple hearts," "french blues," "black bombers," etc., produce excitement and a lessening of conscious fatigue, although takers become extremely exhausted. Users of these drugs are talkative and often incoherent, a condition of which they are unaware until the effect of the drugs have worn off when dullness, apathy and fatigue occur. Delusions and mental illnesses can follow their use, and the amphetamines and barbiturates, together with marihuana, are particularly liable to lead to addiction to drugs such as heroin. Marihuana or cannabis, usually smoked, but may be taken in the form of snuff, produces unreality and appears to cause some intensity of a person's state of mind; it in no way enhances efficiency or enables the taker to perform tasks which he would

normally be unable to carry out. Incidents of actual mental illness have been reported to follow marijuana smoking. In the historical sense, marijuana, under its other name of hashish, gave its name to the assassin, which may perhaps indicate that in the East at least the drug had certain undesirable connotations.

The increasing problem of drug addiction and habituation is primarily one affecting the young. It might, therefore, be logical to ask the young themselves to do something about it. There must be many young people in this area who are well aware of those sad members of their own generation who find it necessary to take drugs of varying kinds. Our normal young people should, therefore understand that if they know of such a case and ignore it, or accept the habit as in some way normal they will to some degree be responsible for what happens afterwards to their friends. They should be asked to show clearly to their contemporaries that they do not consider drug-taking as either necessary or smart, and in cases where persuasion fails they should not hesitate to inform a responsible adult, whether that be their family doctor, their parents or their school teacher, and the same normal young people should look upon the police not as anxious to prosecute but as friends eager to prevent the development of a grave situation.

REMOVAL OF MEDICINES CAMPAIGN

After much preparation by the working party comprising representatives from each district council, county council staff, hospital consultants, pharmacists, general practitioners, Women's Institutes, press and factory personnel, a campaign for the removal of medicines took place during the week of 27th November to 2nd December, 1967, throughout North Hertfordshire.

Despite the lack of publicity given by the B.B.C. and I.T.A., the results were extremely satisfactory; many surplus medicines were produced at the various centres (chemists' shops, clinics, council offices, factories, and shops in rural areas).

Great use was made of the county mobile unit, a trailer exhibition visiting the various districts emphasising the safe storage of medicines; the van being used for the collection of medicines in the more remote rural areas.

Approximately 60,000 tablets were collected and a great deal of liquid medicines; the majority of which were sedatives, hypnotics, tranquillisers, followed by analgesics, antibiotics, and other drugs.

GYPSIES

Arrangements have been made by the Hertfordshire County Council to implement a Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular emphasising the necessity of setting up encampments; two sites were provided, near Cole Green, Hatfield, and at Bushey, as well as a temporary site at Hemel Hempstead. It has been found that this more orderly way of life is in some ways preferable to the gypsies, rather than the incessant need to move to other places – which they had previously experienced when trespassing on roadside verges.

Nevertheless, there is still a balance of at least fifty "Hertfordshire" gypsy families and in the past the district councils have attempted to provide sites in their own areas on the understanding that the County Council would meet any financial deficit of an approved scheme. It has now been agreed that only the County Council can deal with what is probably a fundamental problem for the whole county. Three further sites have been designated in Hertfordshire after a survey by the County Planning Officer; these sites have been investigated by the County Architect, the County Medical Officer and the County Education Officer.

The Hertfordshire Borough and District Councils' Association have resolved:

- (i) That in view of the great social problem presented by the gypsy families, all local authorities in Hertfordshire should support the County Council in their endeavours to rehabilitate the families;
- (ii) That there should be the closest co-operation between the County Council and the local authorities in the selection of sites for gypsies in Hertfordshire.

During 1967 medical officers of health were asked to investigate the lead content of drinking-water as a result of investigations which had shown that in certain parts of England water derived from upland gathering grounds which was, therefore, very soft, had an abnormally high lead content which might have proved harmful to the consumer. The lead content of the drinking-water was therefore discussed with the Lea Valley Water Board, and I am satisfied that the concentration of lead is within the normal limits in this area.

I am happy to report that during 1967, following the initial difficulties in January of that year, only minor trouble with rats has occurred and there have been no further cases of leptospirosis (Weil's syndrome). The heavy infestation by rats which occurred in the autumn of 1966 was not, therefore, repeated the following year.

It is not possible in this short preface to acknowledge all those members of the medical and administrative staffs, both of your district and of the County Council, whose efforts I have so greatly appreciated; my special thanks are due to the divisional nursing officer, Miss S. H. Kestin, for her most valuable comments on the nursing services; the divisional welfare officer, Mr H. Matthews, for his comments on the welfare services – including the mental health services; and to Mr N. Holt, Chief Public Health Inspector, for his work and co-operation during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

J. D. HALL,

Medical Officer of Health.

Divisional Health Office
Bedford Road, Hitchin, Hertfordshire
Telephone No.: Hitchin 50411

ADDENDUM

BIRTH RATE

Number of live births per thousand of the mid-year population both male and female. Proportionate to the number of women of child-bearing age and therefore requires, if it is to bear any relationship to fertility at all, application of an area comparability factor to the crude rate. Still not, however, an accurate index of fertility. The number of live births has increased in the higher social classes in comparison with those in the lower. In general, the age of marriage is decreasing but without a proportionate increase in births.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

The number of deaths of children under the age of one year per thousand live births; used in the past as a useful measure of infant risk and of the wellbeing of a community as a whole. Now reduced to a level below which further reductions are difficult to achieve and no longer an entirely satisfactory index of the standard of child care (see perinatal mortality, *infra*). Commonest causes of death after the first month of life – accidents, mechanical suffocation, bronchitis and pneumonia. Sudden death a particular hazard; the Report of the inquiry into Sudden Death in Infancy revealed that the highest numbers of sudden unexplained deaths in infants was in the two to three months age group; 60 per cent of cases were found by parents in the morning; 38 per cent of 102 cases were found with mouth and nose completely or partially covered by bedding; a greater prevalence in winter and frequently a history of preceeding respiratory infection; such deaths were commoner with illegitimate births and in the poorer types of home, with younger mothers and in over-crowded conditions; cows' milk proteins were demonstrated in the lungs of 42 per cent of sixty sudden deaths. The Inquiry suggested the following causative factors – early bottle feeding, hypersensitivity to cows' milk, soft pillows and recent infections, and that the risk of unexplained sudden death under the age of two was twice as great as the risk of a child under five being killed on the roads.

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE

Still births and deaths under the age of one week per thousand live and still births. The inclusion of still births with deaths under the age of one week emphasises the narrow border line between survival and death at that age. The greater number of perinatal deaths are due to prematurity and the problem is one of the hazards of childbirth to the foetus. The National Birthday Trust Fund report stressed the categories of high-risk mothers – previous history of abortions, premature births or still births, past history of toxæmia, ante partum hæmorrhage and caesarean section. The report concluded that perinatal mortality might be greatly reduced if women pregnant for the first time with any abnormality of any kind during pregnancy and those having born many children were confined in hospital, if prolonged second stages were avoided, and if early diagnosis of foetal distress after birth and prompt resuscitation were given. Prematurity is the outstanding problem; although premature infants make up only 7 per cent of all births, they provide over half the number of still births and 60 per cent of first-week deaths each year. The definition of prematurity – a birth weight of $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb. or less – is not satisfactory, it does not distinguish between those babies who are small and those who are truly premature. The causation of prematurity is ill-understood, maternal conditions such as pre-eclampsia and ante partum hæmorrhage are associated, as are smoking and working during pregnancy. A major cause of death in such infants is the respiratory distress syndrome and premature infants of all weights have a particularly high mortality within twenty-four hours of birth.

NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE

Deaths under four weeks per thousand live births.

EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE

Deaths under one week per thousand live births.

Neither of the two latter rates take any account of stillbirths.

STILL BIRTH RATE

A still birth is a foetus delivered after the twenty-eighth week of pregnancy who at no time has shown any signs of life. The rate is measured per thousand live and still births, and is very closely related to the perinatal mortality rate.

DEATH RATES

The number of deaths per thousand of the population, male and female, may be calculated for each sex, for any age group, and for any disease. The overall death rate from all causes requires correction by a factor to compensate for uneven population distribution as with the birth rate. Not otherwise possible to compare one area with another – an old population would automatically have a higher death rate than a young one. The commonest causes of death for England and Wales in descending order are heart and circulatory diseases, cancer, strokes, etc., and diseases of the chest. The commonest cancer is now that of the lung, the second the stomach and the third the breast, followed by cancer of the colon. Intestinal cancer is decreasing in both sexes, and cancer of the lung increasing. The bearing of two or three children is said to reduce the chances of breast cancer developing after the age of 45 by one-fifth, and of four or more children by two-fifths. Cancer of the lung is a major health hazard and its principal cause is smoking.

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE

The number of deaths in pregnancy or childbirth per thousand total live and still births. Maternal deaths are now relatively uncommon and the risk of pregnancy and childbirth is to the foetus. The Confidential Enquiry into Maternal Deaths in England and Wales (1966) showed that deaths due to pregnancy or childbirth were most commonly due to abortion – death being due to haemorrhage, sepsis, or embolism; the report showed that almost one-third of such deaths occurred in the early part of pregnancy and that the risk of death during childbirth or pregnancy was greatest in women with an obstetric or medical abnormality, in women aged 35 or more bearing their fifth or subsequent child and in women pregnant for the first time who were more than 30 years of age.

TABLE 1.

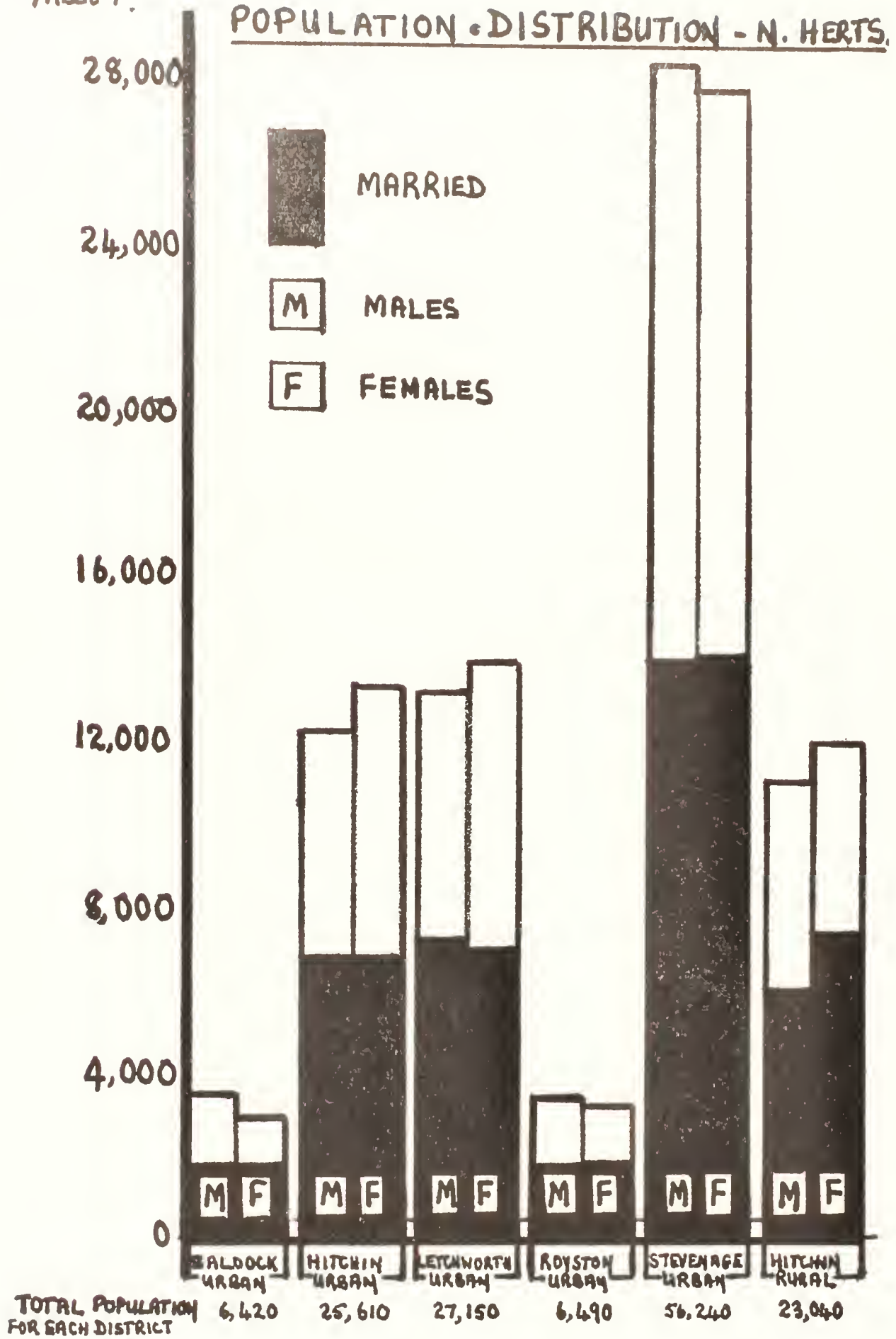
POPULATION DISTRIBUTION - N. HERTS.

TABLE II

POPULATION STRUCTURE - NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

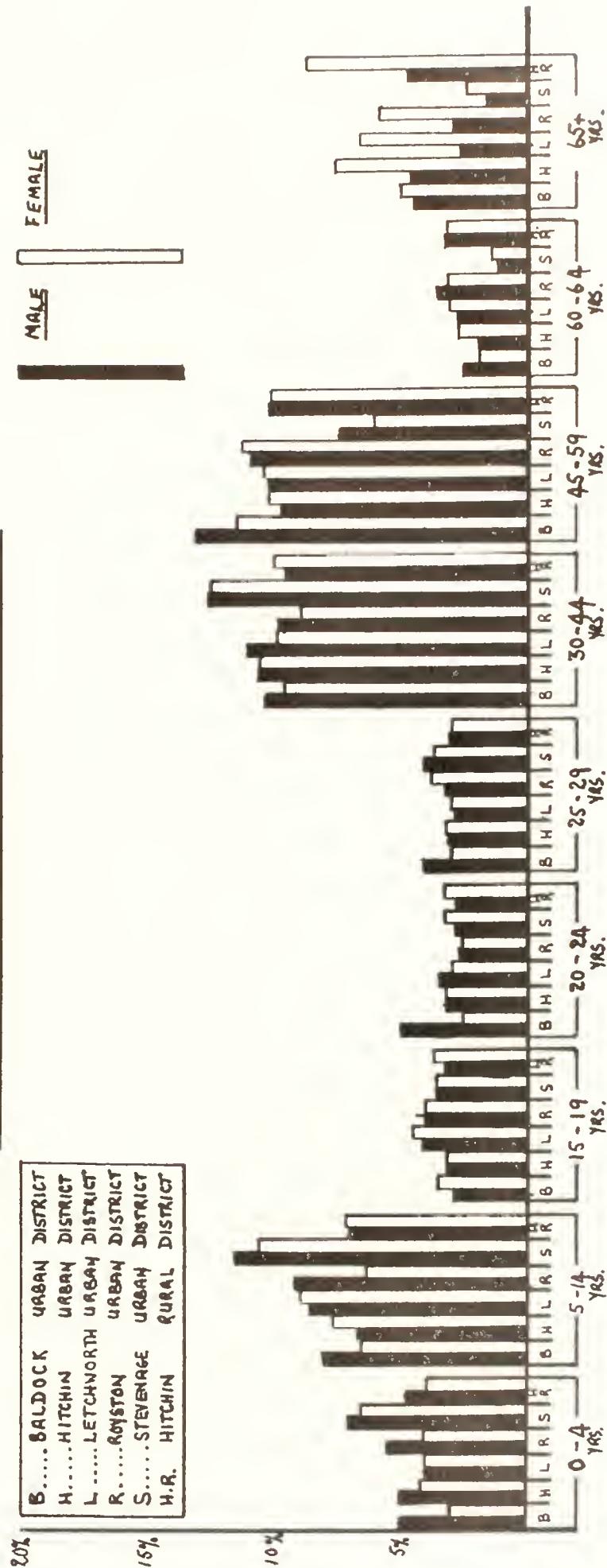


TABLE III

INDUSTRIES OF PERSONS IN EMPLOYMENT - NORTH HERTS

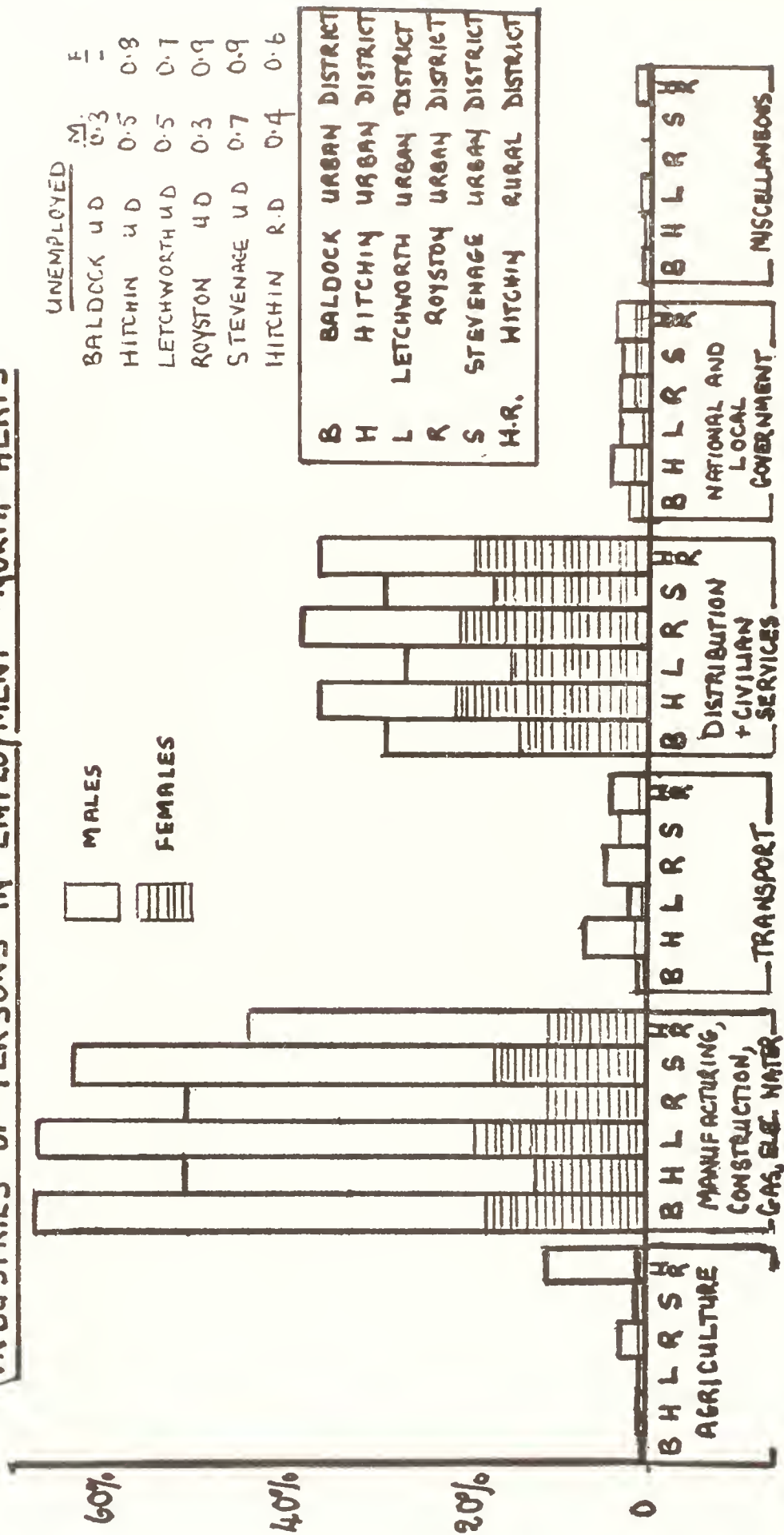
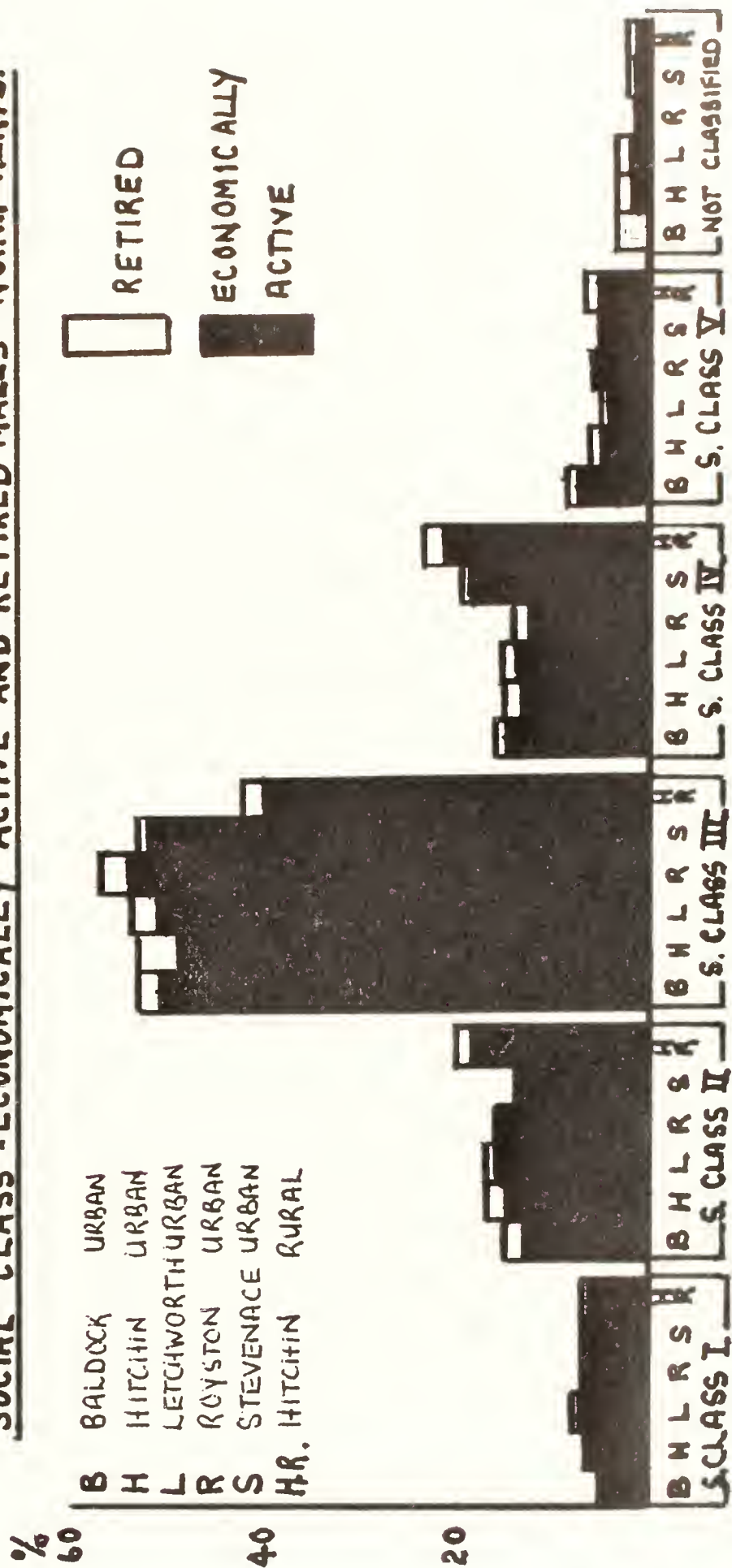


TABLE IV

SOCIAL CLASS - ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE AND RETIRED MALES - NORTH HERTS.



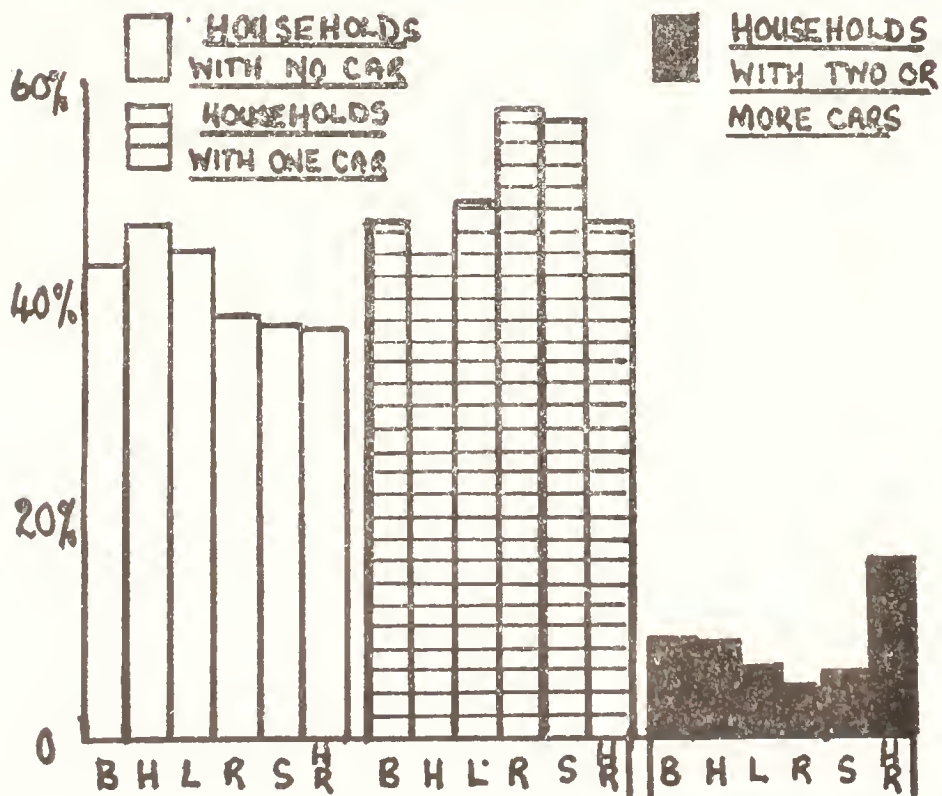
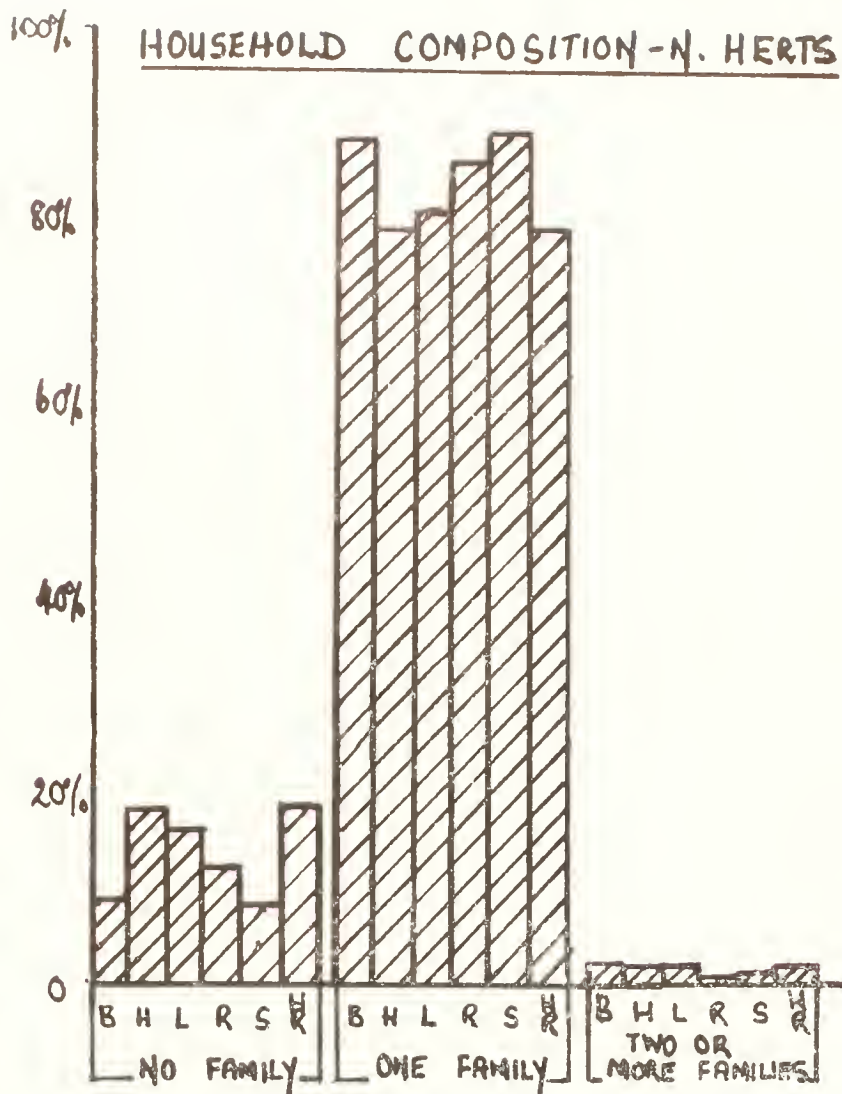
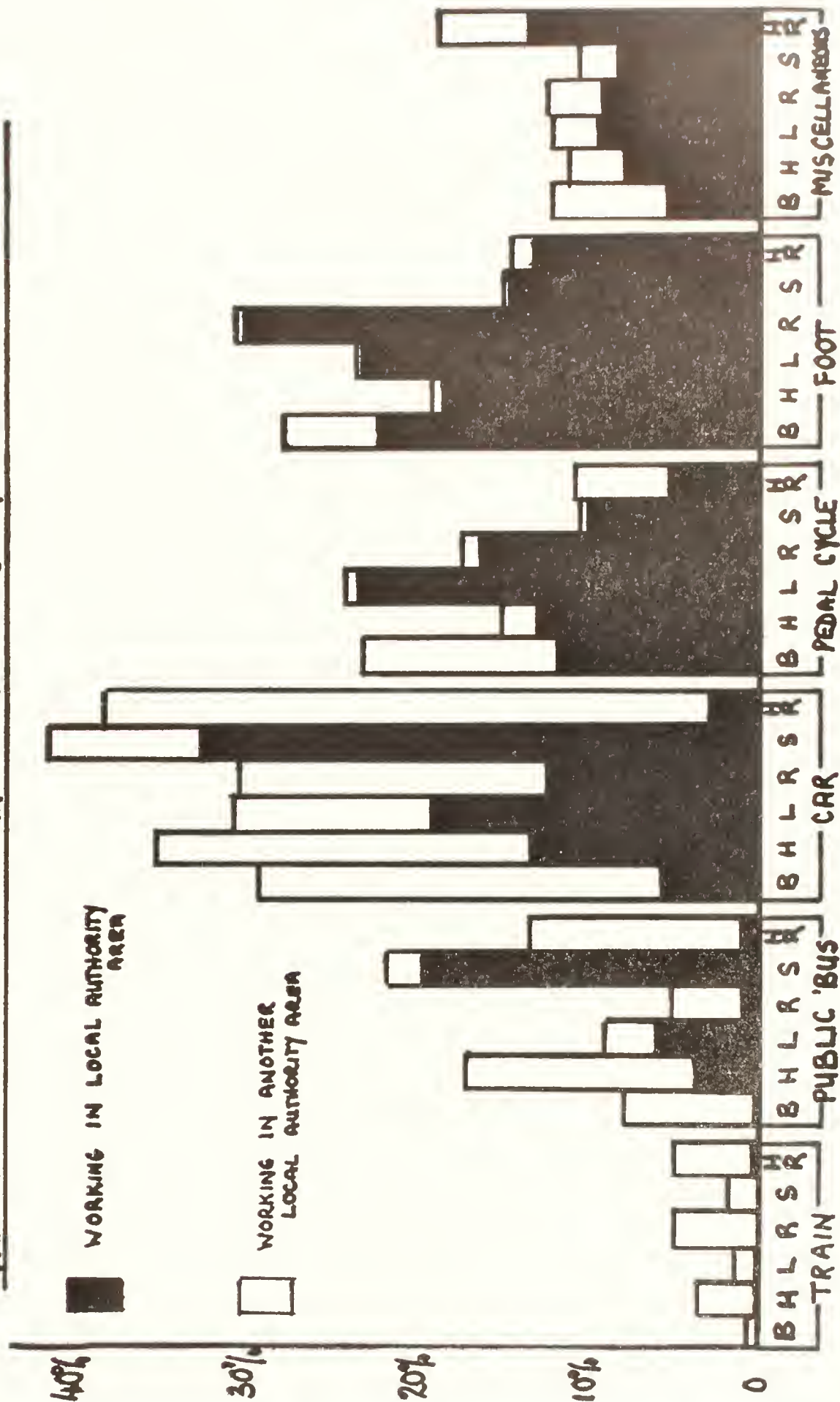


TABLE VII

MODE OF TRANSPORT TO WORK OF RESIDENTS IN NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE



SECTION "A"

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

(a) GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,850
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population mid-1967	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26,240
Number of inhabited houses at 31st December, 1967 (estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,708
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,534,109
Net product of rd. rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£6,340

(b) PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Registrar General's estimate of resident population for mid-1967 reveals an overall increase of 880. Natural increase of population, i.e. excess of births over deaths for the year was 215.

The number of dwelling houses increased by 269: 64 new houses were completed by the local authority and 205 by private enterprise.

Hitchin is surrounded on three sides by the Chilterns and is in proximity to the county of Bedfordshire. This busy market town, situated on the River Hiz, is probably the Saxon Hiecc where King Offa lived for a while. Many Belgic and Roman remains have been found and some of these are housed in the excellent museum. From the time of King Harold until the early nineteenth century it was a royal manor which the Domesday Book shows to have extended over half a dozen parishes.

In the Middle Ages it drew its prosperity chiefly from wool, and now, although the town is mainly residential, there are light industries varying from rose-growing and lavender-distilling, to engineering. One of Hitchin's firms makes most of the parchment now in use, as well as being among the most important producers of fine bookbinding leather in the world.

The Elizabethan playwright George Chapman completed his translation of Homer's *Iliad* here. Sir Henry Bessemer was a native of Charlton. In Benslow Lane the house that is now Benslow Nursing Home was once a ladies' college, established in 1869. Four years later it was transferred to Cambridge, where it became Girton College.

Hitchin still retains an essentially medieval plan – contrasting pleasantly with its local amenities – with a series of streets radiating from the market place. In the seventeenth century its development was checked by repeated outbreaks of plague.

There is a great deal of new development going on and Hitchin Priory – originally a house of the White Carmelites founded in the time of Edward II – has now been acquired from the Radcliffe family by Hertfordshire County Council for educational courses.

HITCHIN VITAL STATISTICS 1967

LIVE BIRTHS:											Males	Females	TOTAL
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	264	257	521
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	244	233	477
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	24	44
Live Birth Rate (uncorrected) per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	19.9
Live Birth Rate (corrected) per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	18.9
Illegitimate live births percentage of total live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	8.4
STILL-BIRTHS:											6	2	8
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	15.1
Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	270	259	529
Total live and still-births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	2	8
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE:											5	2	7
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	9.6
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	14.7
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	22.7
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	7.7
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	7.7
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	22.7
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Perinatal mortality rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still-births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
MATERNAL MORTALITY, INCLUDING ABORTION:											156	150	306
Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
TOTAL DEATHS											—	—	11.7
Death Rate (uncorrected)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	9.7
Death Rate (corrected)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	215
Natural increase of population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	880
Overall increase of population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1967 IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF HITCHIN

General Register Office, Somerset House, Strand, London, W.C.2

Population: 26240

ICD No.	CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex		Total all Ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 1 year		AGE IN YEARS																		
								1-		5-		15-		25-		35-		45-		55-		65-		75 & over		
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			
001-008	(1) Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
010-019	(2) Tuberculosis, other forms ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
020-029	(3) Syphilis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
040-041	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
045-048	Dysentery ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
050	Scarlet Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
055	Diphtheria ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
056	Whooping Cough ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
057	Meningococcal Infections ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
080	Acute Poliomyelitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
084	Smallpox ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
085	Measles ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Rem.																										
001-138	(9) Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
	Malignant neoplasms:																									
151	(10) Stomach ...	6	7	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	2	2	4		
162, 163	(11) Lung and Bronchus ...	7	3	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	1	1	2	-		
170	(12) Breast ...	-	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	3	-	1		
171-174	(13) Uterus ...	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-		
204	(15) Leukaemia and Aleukaemia ...	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-		
Rem.																										
140-205	(14) Other malignant neoplasms ...	18	11	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	4	1	5	1	6	8
260	(16) Diabetes Mellitus ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
330-334	(17) Vascular Lesions affecting central nervous system ...	22	37	59	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	8	11	12	23
420	(18) Arteriosclerotic heart disease, including coronary disease ...	42	16	58	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	14	1	11	5	16	9
422	(19) Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	1	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	
430	(20) Other Heart Disease ...	12	15	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	4	2	5	12
467	(21) Other Circulatory Disease ...	4	6	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	5	1
480-483	(22) Influenza ...	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
490-493																										
763	(23) Pneumonia ...	6	4	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	4	
500-502	(24) Bronchitis ...	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	
527	(25) Other Diseases, Respiratory System ...	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	
540, 541	(26) Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
543, 571, 572, 764																										
590-594	(27) Gastro-enteritis, Diarrhoea ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
610	(28) Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
640-689	(29) Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	
	(30) Complications of Pregnancy, childbirth, and puerperium ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
750-759	(31) Congenital Malformations ...	1	*	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Rem.																										
001-795	(32) All other diseases ...	19	27	46	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	1	-	-	3	3	11	22
E810-																										
E835	(33) Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	4	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
E870-	(34) Accidental Poisoning, sol and Liq. ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
E888	Accidental Poisoning, Gas and Vap. ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
E890-																										
E895																										
E970-																										
E979	(35) Suicide ...	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
Rem.																										
E800-	(34) All other accidents and violence ...	2	4	6	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1
E999																										
	TOTAL ALL CAUSES ...	156	150	306																						

INFANT DEATHS - HITCHIN

Place of Birth	Date of Death	Cause of Death	Age	Birth Weight	Age of Mother	Died at	Sex	Legit.	Illegit.
Home	25. 2.67	Prematurity	19 hours	2 lb. 13 oz.	23	North Herts Hospital	M	-	
North Herts Maternity Unit	13. 2.67	Suffocation	2 months	6 lb. 8 oz.	27	Home	M	-	
North Herts Maternity Unit	22. 8.67	Premature	1 day	3 lb. 12 oz.	20	North Herts	M	-	
North Herts Maternity Unit	15.10.67	Pneumonia	1 day	4 lb. 14 oz.	24	North Herts Hospital	M	-	
Home	22.12.67	Aspiration of Vomit	3 days	6 lb. 8 oz.	20	Home	F	-	
Home	29.12.67	Acute Gastro Enteritis	11 months	9 lb. 4 oz.	36	Lister Hospital	M	-	

	District 1967 HITCHIN U.D.C.	North Hertford- shire Division	Hertford- shire	England and Wales
Population	26,240	150,780	881,870	48,390,800
Live Births (Crude)	19.9	18.4	16.5	} 17.2
Live Births (Corrected)	18.9		15.5	
Death Rate - All causes, Crude	11.7	8.00	8.9	} 11.2
Death Rate - All causes, Corrected	9.7		10.2	
Infective and Parasitic Diseases - excluding Tuberculosis, but including Syphilis and other V.D.	0.11	0.03	0.03	*
Tuberculosis:				
Respiratory	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.04
Other Forms	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
All Forms	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.04
Cancer: Lung and Bronchs.	0.38	0.41	0.46	0.58
Other	2.05	1.48	1.38	1.68
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	2.2	1.2	1.27	*
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	3.7	2.8	3.05	*
Respiratory Diseases	0.60	0.4	1.10	-
Maternal Mortality	0.00	0.35	0.13	0.16
Infantile Mortality	9.6	13.2	14.00	18.3
Neo Natal Mortality	7.6	10.7	10.23	12.5
Early Neo Natal Mortality	7.6	8.2	8.92	10.8
Perinatal Mortality	23.0	16.7	22.27	25.4
Still-births	15.1	8.9	12.46	14.8

* Not available.

DIAGNOSIS AND NUMBER OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS IN HITCHIN

Disability	M	F	Number
Arteriosclerosis	1	—	1
Arthritis	5	20	25
Cerebral diplegia — spastic	1	—	1
Deformity or absence of limbs	3	3	6
Heart Disease	1	—	1
Hip deformities	—	1	1
Multiple defects	—	2	2
Multiple sclerosis	1	7	8
Paget's Disease	—	1	1
Paralysis agitans	5	3	8
Poliomyelitis	—	1	1
Stroke	2	2	4
Tuberculosis	1	1	2
Miscellaneous	3	—	3
TOTAL	23	41	64

DIVISIONAL VITAL STATISTICS

In any discussion on vital statistics it should be remembered that the population of each separate district of North Hertfordshire represents a relatively small basis for comparative purposes. Population of the North Hertfordshire Division, however, which exceeds 150,000 may be considered sufficiently large for valid statistical deductions to be made, and for this purpose the table giving the overall picture of the vital statistics also includes similar statistics for the Division as a whole for comparison with each individual district.

Briefly, from a divisional point of view, all the rates may be considered most satisfactory and none exceed the remainder of Hertfordshire or England and Wales as a whole. The birth rate was higher than that for the remainder of the county and the country, and the population of the Division increased during 1967 by 3,670, natural increase being 1,582. The continually increasing size of the Division, therefore, can be seen to be due to migration into the area rather than to any other factor.

DIVISIONAL VITAL STATISTICS 1967

	Males	Females	TOTAL
LIVE BIRTHS:			
Total	1,488	1,301	2,789
Legitimate	1,409	1,205	2,614
Illegitimate	79	96	175
Live Birth Rate (uncorrected) per 1,000 population	—	—	18.4
Live Birth Rate (corrected) per 1,000 population	—	—	—
Illegitimate live births percentage of total live births	—	—	6.3
STILL-BIRTHS:			
Total	16	8	24
Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	—	—	8.5
Total live and still-births	1,504	1,309	2,813
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE:			
Total	22	15	37
Legitimate	21	13	34
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	—	—	13.3
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	—	—	13.0
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—	—	11.4
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	—	—	10.6
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	—	—	8.2
Perinatal mortality rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still-births)	—	—	16.7
MATERNAL MORTALITY, INCLUDING ABORTION:			
Number of deaths	—	—	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	—	—	0.33
TOTAL DEATHS:	627	580	1,207
Death Rate (uncorrected)	—	—	8.00
Death Rate (corrected)	—	—	*
Natural increase of population	—	—	1,582
Overall increase of population	—	—	3,670

SECTION "B"

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Divisional Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health:

DR J. D. HALL

Assistant County Medical Officers:

DR. D. M. BATTY

DR P. T. HORDER

DR A. T. LEAVER

Four vacancies

Part-time Medical Officers:

DR K. P. BAYLES

DR S. J. MOYNIHAN

DR H. I. L. HALL

DR T. C. PROBYN (One Session only)

DR J. M. B. JUNIPER (One Session only)

DR J. K. SNELL (One Session only)

DR F. MOYNIHAN

DR E. E. WALTON

Divisional Nursing Officer:

MISS S. H. KESTIN

Deputy Divisional Nursing Officer:

MISS V. TURNER

Divisional Welfare Officer:

MR H. MATTHEWS

Chief Clerk:

MRS M. E. SCOTT

Deputy Chief Clerk:

MRS E. TRINDER

Secretary to Divisional Medical Officer:

MRS S. TYTLER

Ophthalmologist:

DR A. S. AWAN

Psychiatrists:

DR R. L. BERSTOCK

DR R. M. GABRIEL

DR O. ROPER

Audiologist:

DR M. V. BICKERTON

Home Help Organiser:

MRS O. M. BENTON

Assistant Home Help Organiser:

MRS E. C. WIGG

Health Visitors and Nursing Staff:

HEALTH VISITORS

MRS S. O. BALL

MISS R. P. HULKS

MRS S. SELVES

MRS D. M. BURGESS

MRS C. KAY

MISS M. E. SHELLS

MRS A. K. M. CLOWSER

MISS M. C. KEMP

MRS D. M. SICKLER

MISS J. CREW

MRS M. W. KLEINER

MISS D. M. SISMAN

MRS P. J. CROSSKELL

MISS M. McARTHUR

MISS J. M. STEER

MISS M. M. DOHERTY

MISS E. L. READ

MISS P. M. TOMKIES

MRS H. B. GRANT

MRS D. M. RENDLE

MRS M. J. WALL

MRS A. M. HALL

MRS H. J. RICHARDS

MRS M. WOOD

DISTRICT NURSE/MIDWIVES

Mrs E. BATES
Miss A. E. BEMMENT
Miss V. M. BENNETT
Mrs S. BENTLEY
Miss N. BUMFREY
Miss A. N. BUNTON
Miss E. COLLIER
Mrs V. M. FRASER

Miss D. GRANT
Miss M. L. HIBBERT
Miss M. E. LANE
Miss J. LENTIEUL
Mrs A. E. M. McGRAA
Mrs L. M. MAGINTYRE
Mrs J. L. MORLEY
Mrs H. A. NWOSU

Mrs J. OYEFESO
Miss A. D. PHILLIPSON
Miss C. Y. POON
Miss S. A. SEAL
Mrs D. A. STEPHENS
Miss B. M. WOOD

DISTRICT NURSES

Mrs K. BARRATT
Miss E. M. COOPER

Mrs M. HEMMINGS
Mrs S. M. HICKLING

Mrs M. P. SAYER
Mrs V. WORRALL

DISTRICT MIDWIVES

Miss G. CRISP
Miss E. G. DICKINSON

Mrs J. NOAKES
Mrs D. ROBBINS

Miss N. SCRIVENS

VILLAGE NURSE MIDWIFE

Miss W. M. BALDWIN

DISTRICT NURSE/MIDWIFE/HEALTH VISITORS

Miss B. ARMITAGE
Miss V. P. DUDLEY

Miss K. MUGGERIDGE
Miss F. REDKNAP

Miss D. B. WAGLAND
Miss E. F. WILKINSON

PART-TIME ASSISTANTS TO HEALTH VISITORS

Mrs P. BALL
Mrs Y. BATT
Mrs C. M. CAMPBELL
Mrs V. E. CONNOR

Mrs M. B. M. CRISP
Mrs J. DOYLE
Mrs M. EDWARDS
Mrs G. E. HARVEY

Mrs J. KING
Mrs M. LANHAM
Mrs E. ROGERS
Mrs D. WARNER

PART-TIME DISTRICT NURSE/MIDWIVES

Mrs U. K. GRAINGER-ALLEN
Mrs H. HOLDING

Miss G. J. HOLYOAKE

Mrs F. B. RUSSELL

PART-TIME DISTRICT NURSES

Mrs D. COOPER
Mrs P. D. HARDY
Mrs J. HOOK

Mrs J. I. NICHOLLS
Mrs M. F. POWELL
Mrs J. H. PYRAH

Miss M. TILEY

PART-TIME DISTRICT MIDWIFE

Mrs M. CARNEY

STATE ENROLLED NURSES

Mrs H. GILCHRIST

Mrs G. J. LINES

Miss A. PHIPPS

Orthoptist:

Mrs D. BOTTOMS

Speech Therapists:

Miss D. ANSON

Mrs M. EVESHAM

Training Centre Supervisors:

Mrs M. HOWIE

Mr D. R. SINDALL

Training Centre Assistant Supervisors :

MRS K. L. BUCKSEY
MRS H. G. I. THURSTANCE

MRS R. E. TYNAN
MRS S. V. M. WARD

MRS M. WOOD
MRS L. YESCOMBE

Training Centre Senior Instructors :

MR R. E. S. EVERITT

MRS J. A. ST CLAIR

Mental Welfare Officers :

MR A. J. S. STEEL
MR J. W. CRICK
MISS E. M. MORRIS

MR A. E. NWOSU
MRS J. SMITH
MISS M. Z. WALKLEY

MISS P. M. WHITE

Social Workers for the Blind :

MRS J. PRICE

MISS M. M. ROE

Part-time Chiropodists :

MR W. D. CRAWFORD
MR R. W. HAWKES
MR R. HULKS
MR T. S. MCCONNELL

MRS R. PREECE
MR A. E. READ
MRS M. W. READ
MR A. SHEPHERDSON

MR A. H. STEER
MISS K. M. TANSLEY
MRS S. A. TOPHAM

Sectional Clerks :

General Health Department

MRS E. TRINDER

School Health Department

MISS F. E. FOSSETT

Maternity and Child Welfare Department

MRS J. CLARK

Clerks :

MRS J. A. ARCHER (P.T.)
MRS B. J. BEAZLEY (P.T.)
MRS P. COTTON
MRS A. DARVILL (P.T.)
MRS D. E. M. GRAY (P.T.)
MRS A. M. HANCOCK (P.T.)
MISS C. HARVEY
MRS V. R. HARVEY

MRS J. HESSEY
MRS B. E. HUGHES
MRS J. D. MARSH (P.T.)
MRS I. M. MUNFORD (P.T.)
MRS J. R. RENDO
MRS M. A. SHINN (P.T.)
MRS J. SKINNER
MRS M. SKIPPER

MISS C. J. M. SPENCER
MRS K. A. STEVENS
MRS P. THURWELL
MISS A. TULEY
MISS S. J. WARNER
MRS M. WISE (P.T.)

Child Guidance Secretary :

MISS P. J. WALLER

Home Helps :

Fifty-six

“ Good Neighbours ” :

Fifteen

Maintenance Staff :

MRS H. HAILEY
MRS A. LEACH

MR A. W. SAUNDERS
MRS J. M. WALKER

LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN – SECTION 22

Ante-Natal Booking Clinics

The completion of the attachment of midwives to groups of general practitioners made ante-natal booking sessions at some clinics unnecessary and ante-natal cases were seen at general practitioners' surgeries.

ATTENDANCES:

Clinic	No. of patients who attended	No. of Attendances
	1967	1967
Hitchin: G.P. Surgeries	491	3,928
Letchworth G.P. Surgeries	210	1,002
Stevenage G.P. Surgeries	918	7,321
Baldock (Booking Clinic only)	60	60
Royston (Booking Clinic only)	17	17
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,696</i>	<i>12,328</i>

There were 2,779 live and stillbirths in the divisional area in 1967.

Ante-Natal Instruction Classes

Attendances increased by 94 (5 per cent) during 1967. Ante-natal instruction classes are important, not only in their teaching of relaxation exercises but in the opportunity they afford for the general instruction of nursing mothers.

Clinic	No. of Attendances
	1967
Baldock	127
Hitchin	412
Letchworth	308
Royston	324
Stevenage	1,184
<i>Total</i>	<i>2,355</i>

Family Planning Clinic

Family planning in the division is provided by the Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Branch of the Family Planning Association, and I am most grateful to the Branch Organising Secretary, Mrs K. Arger, both for the provisions she has made and for this report.

SESSIONS:

Hitchin, Bedford Road – Tuesday afternoon (Double Doctor Session)
 Wednesday evening (Double Doctor Session)
 Thursday morning (Single Doctor Session)

The training of doctors and nurses in family planning methods is carried out in this clinic. An I.U.D. session is also included.

Four hundred and forty-one new patients attended during the year and a total of 1,085 patients attended.

Oral contraception was the most used method.

Stevenage Family Centre – Tuesday afternoon (Treble Doctor Session)
 Wednesday morning (Treble Doctor Session)
 Thursday evening (Treble Doctor Session)
 Friday morning (Treble Doctor Session)

Doctors and nurses are also trained at the Stevenage Family Planning Clinic. No I.U.D. sessions are held.

Five hundred and sixty-nine new patients attended during the year and a total of 2,242 patients attended.

Oral contraception was the most used method.

Infant Welfare Clinics

Infant Welfare Centre, Pinnocks Lane, BALDOCK	Wednesday 2-4 p.m. Thursday 2-4 p.m.	Dr S. J. Moynihan Health Visitor
County Health Centre, Bedford Road, HITCHIN	Monday & Friday 2-4 p.m. Wednesday 2-4 p.m.	Dr D. M. Batty Health Visitor
Community Centre, Walsworth, HITCHIN	2nd & 4th Wednesday 2-4 p.m.	Dr H. I. L. Hall
Oakfield Estate, HITCHIN (Mobile)	2nd Thursday 10 a.m.-12 noon 4th Thursday 10 a.m.-12 noon	Dr D. M. Batty Health Visitor
Infant Welfare Centre, Congregational Hall, KNEBWORTH	3rd Friday, 2-4 p.m.	Dr J. M. B. Juniper
County Health Centre, Nevells Road, LETCHWORTH	Tuesday 2-4 p.m. Thursday 2-4 p.m.	Health Visitor Dr H. I. L. Hall
Community Centre, Middlefields, LETCHWORTH	Monday 2-4 p.m.	Dr H. I. L. Hall
Jackmans Estate Health Annexe, Radburn Way, LETCHWORTH	Wednesday 2-4 p.m. Friday 10 a.m.-12 noon	Dr K. P. Bayles Health Visitor
Infant Welfare Centre, Lady Dacre Rooms, Market Hill, ROYSTON	1st Tuesday 2-4 p.m. Friday 2-4 p.m.	Dr J. K. Snell Health Visitor
County Health Centre, Southgate, STEVENAGE	Alternate Mondays 2-4 p.m. Alternate Mondays 2-4 p.m. Tuesday 9 a.m.-12 noon Alternate Thursdays 2-4 p.m. Alternate Thursdays 2-4 p.m. Friday 9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.	Dr P. T. Horder Health Visitor Health Visitor Dr P. T. Horder Health Visitor Health Visitor
Infant Welfare Centre, 27 High Street, STEVENAGE	Tuesday 2-4 p.m. Friday 2-4 p.m.	Dr K. P. Bayles Health Visitor
Lodge Farm Health Annexe, off Mobbsbury Way, STEVENAGE	Alternate Mondays 2-4 p.m. Alternate Mondays 2-4 p.m. Alternate Wednesdays 2-4 p.m. Alternate Wednesdays 2-4 p.m. Alternate Thursdays 2-4 p.m. Alternate Thursdays 2-4 p.m.	Dr P. T. Horder Health Visitor Dr P. T. Horder Health Visitor Dr P. T. Horder Health Visitor
Pearmtree Health Annexe, off Hydean Way, STEVENAGE	Tuesday & Wednesday 2-4 p.m.	Dr A. T. Leaver
Infant Welfare Centre, St Peter's Church Hall, Broadwater, STEVENAGE	Monday 2-4 p.m. Friday 2-4 p.m.	Health Visitor Dr K. P. Bayles
Infant Welfare Centre, Merchant Taylors' Further Education Centre, ASHWELL	1st Friday 2-4 p.m. 3rd Friday 2-4 p.m.	Health Visitor Dr S. J. Moynihan
Infant Welfare Centre, BARKWAY (Mobile)	2nd Monday 10 a.m.-12 noon	Dr S. J. Moynihan
Infant Welfare Centre, Union Church Hall, High Street, CODICOTE	2nd Thursday 2-4 p.m. 4th Thursday 2-4 p.m.	Dr D. M. Batty Health Visitor
Infant Welfare Centre, PIRTON and HOLWELL (Mobile)	2nd & 4th Wednesday 2-4 p.m. 1st Monday 10 a.m.-12 noon	Health Visitor Dr D. M. Batty
Infant Welfare Centre, Memorial Hall, Hall Lane, KIMPTON	2nd Monday 2-4 p.m. 4th Monday 2-4 p.m.	Health Visitor Dr D. M. Batty
Infant Welfare Centre, ICKLEFORD (Mobile)	1st Wednesday 2-4 p.m.	Health Visitor
Infant Welfare Centre, ICKLEFORD (Mobile)	3rd Wednesday 2-4 p.m.	Dr D. M. Batty
Infant Welfare Centre, Village Hall, GREAT OFFLEY	1st Thursday 2-4 p.m.	Dr D. M. Batty
Infant Welfare Centre, SANDON (Mobile)	1st Wednesday 10 a.m.-12 noon	Dr S. J. Moynihan
Infant Welfare Centre, WESTON (Mobile)	1st Friday 10 a.m.-12 noon	Dr S. J. Moynihan
Infant Welfare Centre, WHITWELL (Mobile)	4th Thursday 2-4 p.m.	Dr D. M. Batty

Clinic	Children Born in 1967	Children Born in 1966	Children Born in 1962-65	No. of Attendances
Baldock	95	97	234	2,913
Hitchin	433	420	547	8,098
Letchworth	471	569	457	11,616
Royston	117	151	165	2,297
Stevenage	1,128	975	853	14,251
Hitchin Rural	275	272	314	5,713
TOTAL	2,519	2,484	2,570	44,888

Premature Infants

A premature infant is one which weighs $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb or less at birth. Observations on the risks of prematurity are included elsewhere in the discussion on divisional vital statistics.

There were 159 premature births in the division: 12 were twins, 11 were stillborn, 18 per cent were born at home and 82 per cent in hospital; 19 premature babies died in the first four weeks of life, 18 in hospital.

The incidence of premature births increased by 30 per cent during 1967 with a corresponding increase in the loss of life.

The figures are, however, too small to assess their significance.

PREMATURE INFANTS BORN IN 1967

District	Born Alive			Stillbirths			No. removed to Hosp. after Birth	Died under 28 days			No. who survived 28 days		
	At Home	In Hosp.	Total	At Home	In Hosp.	Total		At Home	In Hosp.	Total	Born at Home	Born in Hosp.	Total
Baldock	4	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	0	4
Hitchin	5	16	21	0	1	1	1	0	3	3	4	14	18
Letchworth	1	4 Twins 23	24	0	1	1	0	0	4	4	1	19	20
Royston	3	3 Twins 4	7	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	4	7
Stevenage	19	5 Twins 60	79	0	2	2	1	1	6	7	18	54	72
Hitchin Rural	2	13	15	0	2	2	0	0	3	3	2	10	12
TOTALS	34	118	152	0	7	7	2	1	18	19	32	101	133

Care of the Unmarried Mother and Child

Age Incidence:

(1) Age 15-19	...	...	33
(2) Age 20-24	...	...	31
(3) Age 25-29	...	...	7
(4) Age 30-39	...	...	9
(5) Age 40 and over	...	...	-
Unknown	...	...	5

A total of 175 illegitimate births were, in fact, notified by the Registrar General during 1967.

Day Nurseries

Category	No. on Register
1. Children of widows or widowers	6
2. Children of unmarried mothers	9
3. Children of deserted wives or husbands	15
4. Children of parents in prison	nil
5. Children of parents suffering from chronic illness or disablement	1
6. Temporary cases, for example, mother's illness or confinement	nil
7. Children recommended by doctor or health visitor for temporary help	4
8. Children of parents coming within the "Essential Services" categories; for example, teachers and nurses (Local Committee Members' approval required)	4
9. Children living in bad housing conditions	nil
10. Children of families where there was a risk of break-up in family	2

The number of children on the register of the day nursery as at 31st December, 1967, was 41.

MIDWIFERY – SECTION 23

The County Council's policy, with the decline in birth rate and of domiciliary confinements, to appoint district nurse midwives continued during 1967.

All midwives are authorised to use their private motor cars on official business and the County Council, in common with other local authorities, operate an assisted car-purchase scheme for staff classified as "essential users."

Post-graduate courses were arranged for those members of the staff who were required to attend in accordance with Section G of the Rules of the Central Midwives Board. Four midwives attended these courses.

Of the 2,456 live and stillbirths in the division during 1967 district midwives delivered 1,035 – 42 per cent of all deliveries, therefore, were domiciliary. The Cranbrook Committee in its report on the maternity services recommended that provision should be made for 70 per cent of all mothers to be confined in hospital. In North Hertfordshire it will be seen that only 58 per cent of mothers were so delivered. In spite of this added burden on the domiciliary midwifery services, on an average, each midwife delivered 1.4 patients each week, an indication of the declining role of the domiciliary midwife. Midwives attended 172 mothers who were discharged from hospital within forty-eight hours of delivery: this is an early discharge rate of 12 per cent and is within the national average. It is an improvement on the figure for 1966 when the early discharge rate for North Hertfordshire exceeded that for the rest of the country. It would seem that the increased number of beds available in the North Hertfordshire Maternity Unit have made it possible for more mothers to stay longer in hospital.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY

Ante-Natal visits to Expectant Mothers	11,589
Home Condition Reports for Hospitals	549
Ante-Natal Session – Local Authority	121
Ante-Natal Session – General Practitioner	809
Deliveries – Home	1,035
Total – Live and Stillbirths	2,456
Percentage of Home Confinements	42%
Percentage of Primipara	29%
Early Hospital Discharge – 48 hours	172
After 48 hours	703
Percentage of Early Discharges	12%

HEALTH VISITING – SECTION 24

Twenty-four health visitors were employed during 1967 with the assistance of twelve State Registered Nurses who attended school and infant welfare clinic sessions.

During 1967 a health visitors' training course was formed at the Stevenage College of Further Education and this should help to ease the recruiting situation which is still very difficult.

Health Visiting

Child Welfare	Visits ...	37,567
Aged	Visits ...	3,481
Others	Visits ...	2,489
School Inspections	Sessions ...	1,392
Maternity and Child Welfare	Sessions ...	2,205
Others	Sessions ...	6,678

The number of visits to aged persons during 1967 increased by 38 per cent.

HOME NURSING - SECTION 25

The staff of the home nursing service in the division at 31st December, 1967, consisted of seven full-time district nurses and seven part-time district nurses; twenty-one full-time district nurse/midwives and four part-time district nurse/midwives. The staff who are able to drive cars are either authorised to use their own vehicles on official business, or have been provided with county-owned motor vehicles.

A Night Nursing Service has been established, and two State Enrolled Nurses have been employed for this purpose. The strain experienced by relatives in nursing terminal illnesses can be relieved by the provision of a nurse. Ten patients were attended in 1967 and a total of forty-three visits were paid. This service was restricted by the shortage of available staff.

The following are statistics relating to the work of the home nurses in 1967. It will be seen that they made 40,191 visits to 1,827 patients; 42 per cent of the patients nursed were aged 65 or over and they were visited on 27,134 occasions; 66 per cent of all visits, therefore, were made to this age group, a decrease of 6 per cent from 1966.

HOME NURSING										No. of cases attended	No. of visits made
Classification											
Medical ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,304	32,319
Surgical ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	375	7,634
Tuberculosis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	35
Others ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	146	203
TOTALS										1,827	40,191
Patients included above who were aged 65 or over										757	27,134
Children included above who were under 5 or less										33	209
G.P. Surgery											Sessions 1,168
G.P. Surgery											Treatments 1,542

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION - SECTION 26

SMALLPOX

	Under 1	1-2 years	2-5 years	5-15 years	15+ years	Totals
VACCINATIONS						
(a) By Clinic Medical Officers	7	417	262	9	-	695
(b) By Private Doctors	51	414	694	99	8	1,266
RE-VACCINATIONS						
(a) By Clinic Medical Officers	-	-	4	5	8	17
(b) By Private Doctors	-	-	10	177	11	198
Total vaccinated and re-vaccinated	58	831	970	290	27	2,176

Fifty-eight per cent of the children vaccinated at local health authority clinics were under the age of two years as compared with only 28 per cent of the same age group by family doctors; 55 per cent of those vaccinated privately were over the age of two years. Complications are lessened by vaccination under the age of two years and parents are urged firstly to have their children vaccinated against smallpox as a matter of routine, and secondly to request such treatment before the age of two is reached.

DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS and WHOOPING COUGH

	Year of Birth					Totals
	1967	1966	1965-63	1962-52	1951	
PRIMARY IMMUNISATION						
(a) By Clinic or School Medical Officers ...	644	829	63	13	—	1,549
(b) By Private Doctors	513	469	89	45	—	1,116
SECONDARY or REINFORCING INJECTIONS						
(a) By Clinic or School Medical Officers ...	—	665	530	188	—	1,383
(b) By Private Doctors	—	208	424	391	—	1,023
Total of primary and secondary immunisation	1,157	2,171	1,106	637	—	5,071

DIPHTHERIA and TETANUS COMBINED

	Year of Birth					Totals
	1967	1966	1965-63	1962-52	1951	
PRIMARY IMMUNISATION						
(a) By Clinic Medical Officers	16	26	30	46	—	118
(b) By Private Doctors	15	8	4	9	—	36
SECONDARY or REINFORCING INJECTIONS						
(a) By Clinic Medical Officers	—	29	105	833	—	967
(b) By Private Doctors	—	11	52	401	—	464
Total of primary and secondary immunisation	31	74	191	1,289	—	1,585

TETANUS

	Year of Birth					Totals
	1967	1966	1965-63	1962-52	1951	
PRIMARY IMMUNISATION						
(a) By Clinic Medical Officers	—	—	2	20	—	22
(b) By Private Doctors	2	2	2	89	—	95
SECONDARY or REINFORCING INJECTIONS						
(a) By Clinic Medical Officers	—	1	3	45	—	49
(b) By Private Doctors	—	—	16	197	—	213
Total of primary and secondary immunisations	2	3	23	351	—	379

POLIOMYELITIS

	Year of Birth				Totals
	1967	1966	1965-63	1962	
PRIMARY IMMUNISATION					
(a) By Clinic or School Medical Officer	719	1,067	222	77	2,085
(b) By Private Doctors	410	586	127	46	1,169
SECONDARY or REINFORCING INJECTIONS					
(a) By Clinic or School Medical Officer	—	215	245	1,479	1,939
(b) By Private Doctors	—	139	235	619	993
Total of primary and secondary immunisations	1,129	2,007	829	2,221	6,186

In 1966 local health authorities were issued with 4,710,500 doses of oral vaccine compared with 34,000 doses of vaccine for injection. The use of the latter vaccine should be discontinued.

AMBULANCE SERVICE – SECTION 27

Number of patients conveyed	...	...	...	...	...	66,894
Number of journeys	...	...	...	...	...	17,974
Total mileage	...	...	...	...	...	429,847

DETAILS OF JOURNEYS:

Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1,562
Sudden Illness	...	...	...	...	...	516
Removals	...	...	...	...	...	64,198
Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	618
						66,894

The divisional area is served by the County Ambulance Station at St George's Way, Stevenage. The Area Supervisor is Mr J. Sweetman, who has kindly supplied the above statistics.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS: CARE AND AFTER-CARE – SECTION 28

The provision of the medical loans service continued to be delegated to the voluntary organisations of the British Red Cross Society and the St John Ambulance Brigade. No charge was made and many items, such as back-rests, air-rings, bedpans, etc., were included. More expensive equipment was provided directly by County Hall and patients have benefited from the use of ripple beds, hydraulic hoists, bath-seats, etc.

Forty-seven patients were recommended by their family doctors for a convalescent holiday and these were mainly spent at County Hall's convalescent home at St Leonard's-on-Sea.

CHEST CLINIC

HEALTH VISITING:

Tuberculosis Households – Visits	...	...	...	...	288
B.C.G. Follow-up – Visits	...	...	...	...	69
Contacts – Visits	...	...	...	...	209
Non-Tuberculosis – Visits	...	...	...	...	152

NEW CASES:

Immigrants	...	...	...	...	7
Others	...	...	...	...	32
Contacts of New Cases	...	...	...	...	209
Heaf negative	...	...	...	...	110
B.C.G. vaccination	...	...	...	...	85

VENEREAL DISEASES

SPECIAL CLINIC	Totals All Venereal Conditions	Number of New Cases in 1967			Other Venereal Conditions
		Syphilis		Gonorrhoea	
		Primary and Secondary	Other		
Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge	20	—	—	1	19
Lister Hospital, Hitchin	197	3	7	35	152
Total	217	3	7	36	171

CYTOLOGY CLINIC

“ WELL WOMAN ” CLINIC - January 1967

HITCHIN	Every Wednesday	a.m.
LETCHWORTH	1st and 3rd Tuesday	a.m.
STEVENAGE	Thursday a.m. and Friday p.m.	

1967 was the first full year in which the cervical cytology clinics were held in the North Hertfordshire Division and the attendance figures were disappointing. The population at risk from cancer of the cervix, i.e. women aged 30 and over, are shown in the table for each district and as a total for the whole division. Since, in fact, no female is turned away from these clinics, a more realistic appreciation of the population at risk is perhaps from the age of 20 upwards, and this figure is also included in the table. From these figures it will be seen that in the case of Stevenage only 8 per cent of the female population aged 20 and over attended and 11 per cent of the female population aged 30 and above. In Hitchin, based on the Hitchin Urban District population, the corresponding figures were 3 per cent and 4 per cent; and in Letchworth, based on the Letchworth Urban District population, 3 per cent and 3 per cent. The percentages, however, for both Hitchin and Letchworth would appear to be rather worse even than these figures suggest since women from Royston, Baldock and Hitchin Rural Districts would attend at these two clinics – the increasing size of the female population at risk depressing the percentages above. The percentage of attendances for women at risk for the whole of the North Hertfordshire Division were 4 per cent based on the female population aged 20 and over, and 5 per cent on a population aged 30 and over. It is clear from these figures that the cervical cytology clinics are not being properly used and consideration will have to be given during the coming year – 1968 – to an increase in publicity. It should be remembered, however, that to a certain extent the number of women attending these clinics has been limited by the number of smears that can be dealt with at the hospital; and this has been limited to twenty each session. The waiting-lists are now, however, very much reduced. 77 per cent of all smears taken in the division as a whole were negative. Only 0.05 per cent were positive (one positive smear – Stevenage). 1.6 per cent of the specimens taken were unsatisfactory which suggests the care with which this work is carried out in the clinics. It is interesting to observe the high percentage of infection by *trichomonas vaginalis* found at the Letchworth and Stevenage clinics (25 per cent and 20 per cent respectively). Of 1,852 smears examined it will be seen, therefore, that only one smear was positive. This figure would suggest that the value of cervical cytology is debatable. It must be remembered, however, that probably the most important aspect of these clinics is the examination of the breasts and the full internal examination which is carried out by the medical officer. Cancer of the breast is the third commonest cancer and by far the commonest for women. The last available figures (1966) for England and Wales for cancer showed the following rates per million, cancers for various sites in females:

Breast	...	...	...	398	Ovary	...	...	...	134
Stomach	...	...	...	229	Rectum	...	...	...	105
Intestine (except rectum)	...	...	...	223	Cervix uteri	...	...	...	101
Lung	...	...	...	179	Pancreas	...	...	...	90

BREAST EXAMINATIONS

Number of abnormalities referred in 1967:

Hitchin	...	...	9
Letchworth	...	...	nil
Stevenage	...	...	7

These numbers were lower than expected and reflects the differing opinions of an abnormal breast swelling.

CERVICAL CYTOLOGY CLINICS - "WELL WOMAN" 1967

CLINICS	No. 1st Attendances	% Pop. at risk attending	Negative		Positive		Unsatisfactory Specimens		Inflammatory Changes		Trichomonas Vaginalis		Monilia		Suspicious		Cell Irregularities	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
HITCHIN - Each Wednesday a.m.	306	* (i) 3 (ii) 4	218	71	-	-	5	1.6	71	25	8	3	1	0.3	3	1.0	-	-
LETCHWORTH - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays a.m.	255	(i) 3 (ii) 3	177	70	-	-	3	1.2	9	3.7	64	25	1	0.5	-	-	1	0.5
STEVENAGE - Each Thursday a.m.; Each Friday p.m.	1,291	(i) 8 (ii) 11	1,028	83	1	0.08	13	1.0	201	16	29	20	12	1.0	4	0.3	3	0.2
TOTALS	1,852	(i) 4 (ii) 5	1,423	77	1	0.05	21	1.6	281	14	101	6	14	0.6	7	0.4	4	0.2

* (i) Aged 20 and over
(ii) Aged 30 and over

Population At Risk Women (Sample Census 1966 - estimated error 1.6 per cent deficient)

Baldock U.D.	...	(i) 2,080 (ii) 1,740	Royston U.D.	...	(i) 2,260 (ii) 1,860
Hitchin U.D.	...	(i) 9,540 (ii) 7,900	Stevenage U.D.	...	(i) 16,200 (ii) 12,350
Letchworth U.D.	...	(i) 9,480 (ii) 7,950	Hitchin R.D.	...	(i) 8,560 (ii) 7,200

TOTAL AT RISK (i) 48,120
(ii) 39,000

CHIROPODY

Number of persons treated during year ending 31st December, 1967:

	By local authorities (1)	By voluntary organisations (2)	Total (3)
1. Persons aged 65... and over	1,566	-	1,566
2. Expectant Mothers	-	-	-
3. Children under 5... ..	-	-	-
4. Others	9	-	9
5. Total	1,575	-	1,575

The chiropody service is now almost exclusively directed to the aged.

Number of treatments given during year ending 31st December, 1967:

	By local authorities (1)	By voluntary organisations (2)	Total (3)
1. In clinics	1,969	-	1,969
2. In patients' homes	3,305	-	3,305
3. In old people's homes	-	-	-
4. In chiropodists' surgeries	3,569	-	3,569
5. Total	8,843	-	8,843

40 per cent of treatments were carried out in the patients' home. A rather high figure.

Number of treatments included in Part 2 above which were paid for by the Authority on the basis of fees per treatment:

Local authorities	...	367
Voluntary organisations	...	-
Total	...	367

MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels Services were in operation in all parts of the division in 1967. Under the provisions of the scheme meals are provided to people suffering from malnutrition or who are unable to cook their own meals due to disability or infirmity.

District	No. of Persons	Frequency	Total Meals
Baldock ...	9	Twice weekly ...	1,020
Hitchin ...	60	Three times weekly	8,736
Letchworth ...	36	Twice weekly ...	3,640
Royston ...	30	Twice weekly ...	1,770
Stevenage ...	60	Three times weekly	8,833
Hitchin Rural	49	23 Thrice weekly ... 26 Twice weekly ...	4,656
TOTAL ...	244		28,655

The problems of organisation of a Meals on Wheels service are often very great and I would like to record my indebtedness to the following W.R.V.S. Centre organisers for their work during the year: Mrs H. Ball, Mrs A. E. Cowgill, Mrs Q. Garner, Miss D. Jacklin, Mrs H. R. Weston, Mrs C. R. Wood.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 – SECTION 47

This section of the Act is concerned with the compulsory removal of persons in need of care from their homes on a Court Order, or in emergency on an Order signed by two medical practitioners and a Justice of the Peace. Such a person may be removed to a county home or hospital provided that all sections of the Act are satisfied.

Such action was necessary during 1967.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, SECTIONS 21–36:

During 1967 the shortage of geriatric beds at Lister Hospital continued to cause difficulties in the admission of patients from County Council Old People's Homes despite the utmost help and co-operation from Dr C. Firth, Consultant Geriatrician.

The heavy demand for residential accommodation continued – the waiting list being twenty-one men and thirty women. The position will not be eased by Governmental restrictions on new buildings.

Seven hundred physically handicapped persons were ascertained during the year and helped with aids and adaptations.

DIAGNOSIS AND NUMBER OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS IN NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

Disability	M	F	Number
Angina	2	—	2
Arteriosclerosis	1	2	3
Arthritis	26	117	143
Cerebral diplegia — spastic	11	8	19
Cerebral tumour	—	1	1
Deaf	—	1	1
Deformity or absence of limbs	22	16	38
Diabetes	1	—	1
Epilepsy	2	5	7
Fractures	4	4	8
Heart Disease	6	11	17
Hernia	1	—	1
Hip deformities	1	5	6
Hodgkin's Disease	—	1	1
Hydrocephalus	1	—	1
Hypertension	1	—	1
Mongol	—	1	1
Motor Neuron Disease	1	—	1
Multiple defects	—	2	2
Multiple sclerosis	17	17	34
Muscular Dystrophy	1	1	2
Nephritis	2	—	2
Neuritis	—	1	1
Neuromyelitis Optica	—	1	1
Paget's Disease	—	2	2
Paralysis agitans	19	22	41
Poliomyelitis	12	11	23
Spina Bifida	1	1	2
Stroke	13	13	26
Syringomyelia	1	2	3
Thalidomide	1	—	1
Tuberculosis	3	2	5
Ulcerated legs	1	3	4
Miscellaneous	14	10	24
TOTAL	165	260	425

A total of 426 handicapped persons in the North Hertfordshire division required special help during the year. This help ranged from housing conversions and additions to support from time to time.

It will be observed that the commonest cause of handicapping was arthritis (33.6 per cent) and that five times as many women suffered from this condition as men, mainly because of the greater life expectancy of women. The second commonest cause of handicapping which required assistance from the local health and welfare authority was paralysis agitans (9.6 per cent). Absence of limbs following amputation was the third commonest cause (9.2 per cent); multiple sclerosis was responsible for 8 per cent of cases, followed by the after-effects of cerebral haemorrhage and cerebral thrombosis (6.1 per cent).

BLIND WELFARE

District	No. of Registered Blind Persons	No. of Registered Partially sighted Persons	* No. of Registered Blind and partially sighted persons with other handicaps including deafness and mental subnormality
Baldock	31	7	—
Hitchin	67	18	*16
Letchworth	62	24	—
Royston	18	3	—
Stevenage	48	33	*12
Stevenage Rural	4	—	*1
Hitchin Rural	21	8	*7
TOTAL	251	93	*36

* These are included in the totals of columns 2 and 3

Patients were visited at varying intervals throughout the year according to their separate needs. Lessons were given in typewriting, Braille and Moon, and handicraft lessons. Applications were made for wirelesses, talking books, holidays and grants, and orders were made for R.N.I.B. apparatus. Other associations, etc., were contacted where necessary. Several outings to the seaside and country were arranged.

MENTAL HEALTH ACT, 1959 – SECTIONS 25, 26 AND 29

Eighty-six cases were seen by Mental Welfare Officers with a view to compulsory removal to hospital. Seventy-two were the subject of removal orders. It continues to be very difficult to obtain beds at Fairfield Mental Hospital for geriatric mental cases.

TRAINING CENTRES

JUNIOR TRAINING CENTRE, BEDFORD ROAD, HITCHIN

Special Care Unit	...	...	21
General Unit	...	...	48
Nursery	...	...	4
Total	...	...	73

A nursery class was established, and the adult classes moved to Stevenage. It was not until 1967, however, that children under five attended the nursery unit regularly. The numbers in both the general unit and the special care unit have increased during the year. In November several of the children who attended the special care unit were transferred from ambulance service transport to the ordinary Centre coach transport.

Two children were transferred to the Adult Training Centre and one to a school for the educationally subnormal.

ADULT TRAINING CENTRE, LEYDEN ROAD, STEVENAGE

Trainees on roll 1st January, 1967	...	...	...	29
Trainees on roll 31st December, 1967	...	...	...	35
Five males	} joined the Centre during 1967			
Five females				
Three males	} left the Centre during 1967			
One female				

A social laundry and domestic science programme was started, and increasing attention was paid to liaison with local industries during the year.

HEALTH EDUCATION

The health visitors continued to give talks to various groups of varying age groups. The following were given during 1967:

Home Safety	...	...	...	...	23 talks to Junior School Children
Home Safety	...	...	...	...	1 talk to Mothers' Club
Mothercraft	...	...	...	...	25 talks to expectant mothers
Hygiene	...	...	...	...	10 talks to Junior School Children
Mothercraft and Child Development	...	...	...	...	17 talks to mothers in welfare centres
Community Health	...	...	...	...	4 talks to Old People's Clubs, Women's Institutes, Mothers' Clubs
Work of the Health Visitors	...	...	...	...	3 talks to school children

The midwives also hold ante-natal instruction classes in each town, to which women expecting their first babies were specially invited.

Posters and demonstrations were arranged in the clinics and more use was made of filmstrips.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE – SECTION 29

Number of Home Helps employed at 31.12.67 part-time	...	...	56
Number of Good Neighbours employed at 31.12.67 part-time	...	...	15

GROUPS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE

	No. of cases	No. of hours given
1. Maternity (including expectant mothers)	99	2,372½
2. Chronic sick:		
(a) Aged 65-plus	432	39,484
(b) Aged under 65 and T.B.	41	
3. Others	48	
Including:		
(a) Mental Health		26
(b) Tuberculosis		397½
(c) Blind		3,818¼
(d) Miscellaneous		67
Acute Cases		770
Accidents		440¾
TOTAL	620	47,375¼

NIGHT-SITTER SERVICE

This service was extremely limited owing to the difficulty in obtaining suitable night-sitters: the service is intended to relieve relatives for two nights each week and a charge is made depending upon the assessed income of the applicant. This service is run in conjunction with the Home Help Organiser who also arranges the "Good Neighbour" Service.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

The School Medical Officers' comments are of interest:

"Parents are usually present at the five-year-old medicals and this is essential. It is also important to have a report from the teachers before the examination."

"Eczema is seen in children of all ages, but is nearly always being treated by the family doctor or skin specialist. Adolescents with acne often use ointments, but the most important measures are to keep the skin clean, not to touch the spots and to avoid excessive carbohydrates in the diet."

"Eye defects are mainly found in children in junior schools and in senior schools, and these are being noted at annual testings."

"Hearing defects are reported by teachers or parents or are found at routine examinations. Audiometric tests are not at present carried out on all children routinely."

"Throat infections, catarrh and sinus infections cause loss of schooling especially during the first year or two of school; if these continue for more than a year and there has been no improvement, tonsillectomy should be considered."

“ Speech defects are frequently present in children starting school, but usually improve quickly. If the defects persist, referral for hearing tests and speech therapy is indicated.”

“ Bronchitis causes absences from school, although some children are helped by antibiotic treatment. Asthma also causes absences, although children must be encouraged to attend when possible. It is very helpful if parents and teachers co-operate with this problem and the child gains confidence in dealing with the attacks.”

“ Children with epilepsy are often able to attend ordinary schools, but it is important for the staff of the school to be aware of the treatment.”

“ Cases of acute depression have been seen in school children.”

“ Overweight is a problem in junior and secondary school children, and the co-operation of parent and child must be gained if a child is to lose weight. Avoidance of snacks and biscuits between meals often helps. A large number of children leave the house for school without any breakfast, and then buy snacks at school tuck-shops during the mid-morning break. This could be avoided by eating a sensible breakfast.”

The medical staffing position in the division is now at a seriously low level and I would pay tribute to the hard work of the school medical officers under trying conditions. Drs Batty, Horder and Leaver are now the only remaining whole-time medical staff from an establishment of six or seven, and I am grateful to them for the way in which they have responded to the difficulties which have most unfairly resulted from this staff shortage.

TABLE I

INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN 1967:

Entrants including 8-year-olds	...	...	...	...	2,798
First-year Secondary	...	...	...	...	927
Last-year Secondary	...	...	...	...	1,653

Total	5,378
-------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

Number of special inspections	...	...	...	...	362
Number of re-inspections	...	...	...	...	3,708

Total	4,070
-------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

Total inspection	9,448
------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED:

Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	6,350
Found to require treatment	...	...	...	...	23
Percentage	...	...	...	...	0.36%

The percentage of children, 0.36 per cent, found to require treatment is most satisfactory and equates with the national average. This percentage is really quite remarkable. It reflects the improved economic and social circumstances of the country as a whole and the general good health of the school population.

The number of examinations carried out during 1967 is less than in the previous year and this is a reflection of the medical staffing problems.

I am happy to record that the divisional education officers and the school heads have shown a ready appreciation of the current difficulties.

TABLE II

CLEANLINESS AND HEAD INFESTATIONS:

Total number examinations made for this purpose	...	47,374
Total number found infested	...	110
Total percentage found infested	...	0.23%

TABLE III

CARE OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN:

Whitney Wood School - E.S.N.	165
Residential School - E.S.N.	42
Residential School - Deaf or Partially Deaf	15
Residential School - Deaf E.S.N.	-
Residential School - Blind	7
Residential School - Partially sighted	9
Residential School - Delicate	5
Residential School - Cerebral Palsy	-
Residential School - Physically Handicapped, excluding Cerebral Palsy	15
Residential School - Epileptic	5
Residential School - Maladjusted	15
Mossbury Infants' Special Class for partially deaf	9
Mossbury J.M. Special Class for partially deaf	6
Total	293

NOTE - TABLE II: The percentage, 0.23, of children found infested was very low indeed; that only 110 children out of 47,374 examined for this purpose were found to be infested with pediculosis capitis is extraordinary. It is apparent that different methods of recording infestation are being carried out and that more cases must exist.

TABLE IV

B.C.G. VACCINATION - 11, 12 AND 13 YEARS AND OLDER SCHOOL CHILDREN:

Number of children offered testing and vaccination if necessary	3,416
Number of acceptances	3,195
Percentage of acceptances	93.5%

PRE-VACCINATION TUBERCULIN TEST:

Number tested	2,861
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RESULT OF TEST:

Number positive	315
Number negative	2,546
Number not ascertained	51
Percentage positive	9.8%
Number vaccinated	2,505

Note. - The percentage of children Heaf negative is higher than the national average. The percentage of acceptances is most satisfactory; no adverse reactions to B.C.G. vaccination were reported during the year.

The number of skin tests carried out during 1967 increased by 1,300 and of vaccinations by 1,200 due to the lowering of the age. The medical, nursing and clerical staffs who carried out this work are to be congratulated in absorbing the heavy work load caused.

AUDIOMETRY

TABLE V

Number tested	507
Number with no loss	284

CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC

Hitchin Clinic	0-5 years	5-15 years	Over 15 years	Total
New cases referred	16	101	5	122
Current cases at 31.12.67	17	210	41	268
Special Schools	-	46	22	68

	0-5 years	5-15 years	Over 15 years	Total
Total No. of Interviews:				
Psychiatric	14	284	75	373
Psychological	12	94	15	121
Psychiatric Social Worker Interviews	*	*	*	841
Stevenage Clinic:				
New cases referred	*	*	*	134
Current cases at 31.12.67	*	*	*	*
Special Schools	*	*	*	*
Total No. of Interviews:				
Psychiatric and psychotherapeutic interviews	*	*	*	472
Psychologist interviews (including therapy sessions and trainee psychologist interviews)	*	*	*	610
Psychiatric Social Worker Interviews	*	*	*	765
Social Worker Interviews	*	*	*	275

* Figures not available.

I am grateful to Dr Olive Roper for the following report:

Last year the degree to which the work was hampered by the shortage of psychiatric time available and by the inadequacies of some premises was stressed and there was no improvement during 1967.

An evening session has been arranged at the Lister Hospital for the purpose of seeing young people from the age of 15 years. Several of this age group already attend at Hitchin and will be moved to the new clinic. The Senior Registrar at Hitchin continued to be of great help, but as she is bound to leave us in the near future we shall then be very hard pressed to give an adequate service.

Premises are another problem – there are insufficient rooms at both clinics on the days on which everyone is working. This has affected the amount of help we can give the students on the Stevenage Child Care course. We had one student at Hitchin. During the coming year we have decided our limited accommodation has made it impossible for us to accept a student at Hitchin.

We understand that it is possible we might get additional accommodation and although this will not solve the problem of psychiatric time it will give us more flexibility in the use of personnel and enable us to have more group discussions. In North Hertfordshire we are still needing a special class for maladjusted children and during this last year we have been aware of some of the acute problems of immigrant children in this area.

Our relationship with outside agencies has been good, but I feel we could do so much more if I could be at both clinics twice a week.

The Consultant Paediatrician for the area, Dr C. G. Fagg, is always available for consultation and I am indebted to him for his help during the year.

I would also acknowledge the help and co-operation from Dr C. Firth – Consultant Geriatrician – and Dr B. Mallett – Consultant Psychiatrist.

Drs Roper and Gabriel have played a large part in the School Health Service and I am grateful to them also.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

The hospital services for the area are administered by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board with the Luton and Hitchin Hospital Management Committee. Addenbrooke's Hospital is administered by the United Cambridge Hospitals.

GENERAL HOSPITAL SERVICES

North Hertfordshire Hospital, Hitchin

Lister Hospital, Hitchin

Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge

MATERNITY HOSPITAL SERVICES

North Hertfordshire Maternity Unit, Hitchin

CHEST CLINIC

Lister Hospital, Hitchin

LABORATORY SERVICES

Dr A. T. Willis, Director, Public Health Laboratory, Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Lewsey Road, Luton, Beds

Dr G. R. E. Maylor, Director, Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge

Sections " C," " D " and " E " have been supplied by the Chief Public Health Inspector

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS AND NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1967

NATURE OF VISIT OR INSPECTION

GENERAL SANITATION

Drainage	295
Pet shops	7
Caravan sites and gypsies	39
Factories	65
Refuse and Salvage Collection	342
Refuse disposal	92
Rats and mice	64
Smoke observations	2
Boiler plants	7
Shops, offices, etc.	721
Petroleum installations	134
Swimming pools	16
Water supply	26
Stables and Piggeries	34
Miscellaneous	1,195

HOUSING

Under Public Health Acts :

Number of houses inspected	43
Visits paid to houses	107

Under Housing Acts :

Number of houses inspected and recorded	77
Visits paid to houses	291

Overcrowding :

Number of houses inspected	2
Visits paid to houses	11

Houses in Multiple Occupation :

Number of houses inspected	24
Visits paid to houses	333

Improvement Grants :

Number of houses inspected	36
Visits paid to houses	324

Improvement Areas :

Number of houses inspected	69
Visits paid to houses	125

Certificates of Disrepair :

Number of houses inspected	—
Visits paid to houses	4

Verminous Premises :

Visits paid to houses	36
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NOTICES SERVED

Number of informal notices served	280
Number of informal notices complied with	123
Number of statutory notices served	3
Number of statutory notices complied with	3

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Enquiries in case of infectious disease	1
Enquiries in case of food poisoning	9
Other visits <i>re</i> food poisoning enquiries	39

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Inspection of meat :

Visits to slaughterhouses	588
Visits to shops	31

Food Inspection :

Visits to shops and stalls	128
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<i>Visits to :</i>									
Butchers	98
Fishmongers and poulterers	13
Fish friers	11
Food preparing premises	40
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	162
Greengrocers and fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Dairies and milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Ice-cream stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Markets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	110
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
School and factory canteens, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Street vendors and hawkers' carts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
<i>Visits in connection with sampling (bacteriological) :</i>									
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Ice-cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

HOUSES, ETC.

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Chimney stacks pointed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Flashings repaired or replaced	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Walls pointed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Windows provided or replaced	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
New window sashcords provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Doors replaced (external)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Doors provided or replaced (internal)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Door fasteners repaired or replaced	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Yard surfaces relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ceilings where plaster, etc., repaired or replaced	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Ceilings cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Floors relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
New firegrates provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rooms where dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Trapped sink waste pipes provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
New washbasins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Trapped washbasin wastepipes provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
New baths provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Trapped bath waste pipes provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Rooms where wallplaster, etc., repaired or replaced	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Rooms decorated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Hot-water systems provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Ventilated food stores provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25

Drainage :

New drains constructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drains ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Inspection chamber covers provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Self-cleansing gullies provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Soil pipes provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

HOUSES, ETC.

Waterclosets :

W.C.s where walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
New basins fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
W.C.s ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
W.C.s decorated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
W.C.s where connections repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

SECTION " C "

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (i) *Water*

Hitchin obtains its water from piped supplies controlled by the Lee Valley Water Company.

Water is obtained from four wells: (1) Temple End, Charlton, (2) Wellhead, (3) Oughton Head, and (4) Olley Bottom. The latter two are situated in the rural district just outside the urban boundary. An adequate supply was maintained from the above sources and no restrictions were necessary during the year. The water is satisfactory in quality. 261 bacteriological and 9 chemical samples of the water supplied in the district were taken during the year and examined at the Company's own laboratory. All the samples were found to be satisfactory. The water from the wells is hard and, therefore, no trouble is experienced due to plumbo-solvency. No fluoridation is carried out to the water supplies.

The number of dwelling houses supplied with water from public mains direct into the house is 8,687 serving approximately 26,177 persons, whilst the number of dwelling houses supplied with water from public mains by means of stand-pipes is five serving approximately 15 persons.

In the case of 15 houses the water supply is provided in an outbuilding.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage*

Extensions to the soil and stormwater sewers were carried out during the year on the Westmill, Whitehill and Meads estates.

2. *Rivers and Streams*

No action required by the Public Health Department.

3. (i) *Closet Accommodation*

Only a few outlying premises are provided with dry closets. The whole of the district is provided with waterclosets connected to the Council's sewers, with the exception of a few houses which discharge to cesspools.

(ii) *Public Cleansing – Refuse Collection*

The Report of the Working Party on Refuse Collection appointed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in May 1963, was issued in mid-1967.

The only two systems recommended for house-to-house refuse collection were the continental dustless loading and the paper-sack systems. The latter recommendation was very pleasing to myself as Hitchin is almost wholly on a paper-sack system and the Council had already decided, as far back as early 1961, to permanently operate this system of refuse collection.

From time to time difficulties arise due to insufficient provisions being made for the storage of refuse at new shops, offices, etc. These premises are quite often designed by architects who have no knowledge at the time what trade, etc., will eventually occupy the premises. It is only when the shop, office, etc., is occupied that problems arise regarding refuse storage and collection, due to too little or no space at all being allocated for that purpose.

Special collections of large items of house refuse continue and there is still a great demand for this free service. During 1967 2,077 collections were made.

(iii) *Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963*

Two hundred and nine premises were inspected during the year and 721 visits were made to registered premises.

Works carried out during the year were as follows:

Cleanliness improved ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Overcrowding remedied ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Thermometers provided ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Means of heating provided or improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Means of lighting provided or improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Floors and steps improved ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Seating provided or improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
First aid boxes provided ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Washing facilities improved ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19

Hot and cold water provided	...	...	...	...	...	17
Sanitary conveniences improved	...	...	...	...	...	21
Soap and towel provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
Abstract of Act provided	...	...	...	...	...	65
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	9
Facilities for eating meals improved	...	...	...	...	...	1
Accommodation for clothing provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drinking water provided	...	...	...	...	...	10
Machinery guarded	...	...	...	...	...	6
Handrails provided	...	...	...	...	...	14

Completion of a general inspection of all premises in the district showed that the majority complied with the provisions of the Act.

Regarding premises that did not comply, the majority of shortcomings were made good by occupiers after their attention had been drawn to them.

(iv) *Caravans*

At 31st December, 1967, seven licences had been granted authorising the use of land as sites for caravans. The number of caravans covered by the licences is 113.

A serious problem presented itself early in the year when numerous gypsies and other travellers encamped themselves for several weeks on the grass verges of Stotfold Road. Often there were as many as thirty caravans standing on the verges together with several lorries.

The damage caused to hedges, etc., together with the sight of roadside verges littered with scrap and unwanted material provoked numerous protests from local residents. Objections were also made regarding the travellers' primitive sanitary arrangements and the possible danger to public health that might arise. Eventually the problem was solved, for the time being, by police action, which resulted in the travellers moving to another area or areas.

(v) *Clean Air*

I mentioned in the last report that a hand-fired boiler, which in the past had caused serious smoke nuisances, had been converted to automatic stoking of coal. The improvement hoped for by this conversion has been secured. It is very rare now to observe dark smoke coming from the chimney serving this boiler. Failure by stokers to use the plant properly was found to be the fault on those occasions when a smoke nuisance arose.

The changeover by the railways from steam engines to diesel, especially for shunting purposes, has also resulted in a noticeable reduction in the quantity of dark smoke emitted to the atmosphere in the station area.

Section 3 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, requires that the installation of a new furnace in a building or in a boiler shall be notified to the local authority, unless it is a furnace designed solely or mainly for use for domestic purposes and is not a furnace or a boiler with a maximum heating capacity of 55,000 or more British thermal units per hour.

Routine inspections of premises under other legislation revealed the installation of several new boilers without any notification. In each case occupiers of premises were advised of their responsibility under the Act and details taken of the plant.

The year has seen little new factory building and consequently hardly any experience has been gained in the application of the recent memorandum on chimney heights. The recommendations of the memorandum, together with the exemption afforded under the Act to offices, shops and residences has resulted in those proposals which have been put forward being approved without need for alteration.

(vi) *Swimming Baths*

There are three swimming baths in the district:

- (a) a public open-air swimming bath maintained by the Council, comprising a main and children's pool;
- (b) a private open-air swimming bath at the Girls' Grammar School;
- (c) a parent/teacher association pool at Purwell Primary School.

Fifty-two samples of water in the two pools at the Council's baths were taken and all were reported upon as satisfactory.

The two pools at the public baths are filled from a main water supply. The water is continuously circulated and purified by pressure sand filtration and chlorination. The filtration plant has a turnover period of about four hours.

The County Health Department took samples of the water in the Girls' Grammar School bath and Purwell Primary School pool during the year.

(vii) *Noise Abatement*

Several complaints of noise were received during the year. Two were in respect of noise from factories. In each case the intensity of the noise was assessed with a sound-level meter and it was decided that the noise was not a nuisance. However an informal approach to the occupier of one of these factories resulted in an offending ventilator extractor fan being insulated.

Noise complaints are also received regarding bells and musical jingles from mobile vans, principally ice-cream and fish and chip vendors creating noise outside permitted hours. As these nuisances occur late in the evenings it is necessary for night surveillance in order to catch the culprit. Warnings sent to individual salesmen and to the firms concerned effect immediate improvement, but things tend to slide back again as time passes, especially during summer when students are employed on ice-cream vans.

SECTION “D”

HOUSING

1. *Unfit Houses*

During the year 77 houses were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. The majority of inspections were of houses in the area bounded by Nightingale, Verulam and Walsworth Roads, the object being eventually to obtain a more correct assessment of housing requirements in this locality.

Seventeen Council-owned houses and four private houses were demolished in 1967, the latter in pursuance of demolition orders. One closing order was made on an unfit house and one closing order was revoked after a house had been made fit.

2. *Houses in Multiple Occupation*

Inspections of houses in multiple occupation, which in Hitchin are chiefly occupied by Commonwealth immigrants, continued throughout the year.

The general policy of the Council is to limit the number of individuals in these houses by making directions on the houses under Section 19 of the Housing Act, 1961, and to enforce the directions by regular supervision and inspection.

Four convictions were obtained for offences in relation to houses in multiple occupation, after legal proceedings had been taken by the Council.

During the year the Council rehoused seven families from these houses and it is hoped that more can be achieved in this direction in the future.

3. *Improvement Grants*

(1) Number of discretionary improvement grants made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
(2) Number in (1) above made to owner/occupiers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(3) Number of houses where discretionary improvement works completed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(4) Number of standard improvement grants made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
(5) Number in (4) above made to owner/occupiers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
(6) Number of houses where standard improvement grant works completed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27

4. *Improvement Areas*

All of the tenanted houses requiring improvement in Area No. 2 had been represented to the Council by the end of the year, and the necessary action had been set in motion.

The following action has been taken in respect of Areas No. 1 and 2:

							<i>Area No. 1</i>	<i>Area No. 2</i>
Number of preliminary notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	49
Number of immediate notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	14
Number of suspended notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	33
Number of houses known to have been improved to the full standard	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	11

SECTION " E "

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply

In accordance with the Milk and Dairies Regulations three premises are registered as dairies. One of the dairies carries out the pasteurising and bottling of milk using the H.T.S.T. method of pasteurisation. The two remaining dairies are used as milk stores. There are also four distributors of milk registered under the Regulations. Inspections of the foregoing dairies were made during the year.

During the year 50 samples of milk were taken and submitted to bacteriological examinations with the following results, the majority being bottled milk taken in course of delivery to the consumer.

No. of Samples	Class of Milk	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test		Percentage Satisfactory
		Satisfied	Failed	Satisfied	Failed	
33	Pasteurised	29	4	33	—	88.0
		Turbidity Test				
		Satisfied	Failed			
17	Sterilised	16	1			94.1

(b) Meat and Foods

The Hitchin Bacon Factory Ltd, the only slaughterhouse licensed by the Council, closed down at the beginning of August, and slaughtering of pigs ceased.

Meat inspection at the above slaughterhouse required two inspectors to be present whilst slaughtering was actually taking place. The number of man hours spent at the factory was roughly equivalent to one inspector being employed on meat inspection full time.

Due to the closing of this slaughterhouse it has been possible to reduce the number of public health inspectors employed in the department by one.

The following table gives details of the number of animals killed, inspected and found to be diseased, unsound or unfit for food. The diseased or unsound meat was voluntarily surrendered and disposed of so as not to be used for human consumption.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	—	—	—	—	17,920	—
Number inspected	—	—	—	—	17,920	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i> Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	66	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	—	—	—	—	16.9	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i> Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	125	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	—	—	—	—	0.7	—
<i>Cysticercosis:</i> Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

The following table gives summarised information relating to the carcasses, offal, etc., condemned at the Hitchin Bacon Factory Ltd:

Pigs								lb.
66	pig carcasses	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,782
226	back legs	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,603
242	fore legs	...	...	...	...	...	...	973
818	hocks	...	...	...	...	...	...	999
134	heads	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,358
222	stomachs	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,776
3,547	lungs	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,641
787	livers	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,148
681	hearts	...	...	...	...	...	...	341
311	kidneys	...	...	...	...	...	...	129
279	Flares	...	...	...	...	...	...	535
	plucks	...	...	...	...	...	...	130
	trimmings	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,505

Total: 13 tons 7 cwt 0 qr 16 lb

Numerous visits were made to butchers' shops, food shops and other food-preparing premises where the following quantities of foodstuffs were found to be unsound, unfit for food, and were voluntarily surrendered by the owners and disposed of so as not to be used for human consumption.

MEAT FROM BUTCHERS' SHOPS								
Lamb	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
GENERAL								
Miscellaneous	tinned and packed foods	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,038
Miscellaneous	tinned meats	...	...	...	...	...	...	279
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,281

Total: 1 ton 3 cwt 2 qr 26 lb

Grand total of foodstuffs condemned (all classes):

14 tons 10 cwt 3 qr 14 lb

(c) Food Complaints

During the year the department received 14 complaints in respect of various foodstuffs. In all cases investigations were carried out to determine the source of and ascertain the reasons for the complaints and to ensure that all necessary steps were taken by the firms concerned to prevent any further repetition.

The following table gives details of the individual complaints followed by summaries of the findings and action taken. It is the department's policy in every case where contraries are found in food, etc., to inform the complainant of the action taken.

Commodity	Nature of the Complaint	Commodity	Nature of Complaint
1. Mushrooms	Rotten and discoloured	8. Steak and kidney pie	Contained piece of animal hide
2. Fish	Threadworms	9. Bottle of milk	Dirt inside
3. Cooking fat	Containing fibres of hair	10. Camembert cheese	Semi-liquid
4. Pork Sausages	Sour	11. Double layer lemon cake	Mouldy
5. Potato crisps	Piece of wood in packet	12. Two bottles of milk	Bristles in bottles
6. Pork sausages	Mouldy and sour	13. White loaf	Metal screw
7. Doughnuts	Stale	14. Crumpets	Mouldy

SUMMARIES

1. Mushrooms bought from a market stall were found to be black and rotten. The trader was warned and the complainant reimbursed.

2. A cod fish steak sold by a fishmonger was infested with "filaria." This is a threadworm parasite, about 1½ inches long, usually found in cod. There may be no external signs of the presence of the worm even though the parasite is present in large numbers in the flesh of the fish. No known illness results in man from eating fish affected with this parasite, and it is thought that the temperature of cooking destroys the worm. In this case, as the infestation was heavy the salesman cutting up the fish should have realised that it was unmarketable. The shop manager was interviewed and agreed that the steaks should not have been sold. Appropriate compensation was made to the complainant.

3. Fibres or hairs were found in a packet of cooking fat. The case was passed to the Weights and Measures Department of the County Council. After investigation it was decided that no formal action could be taken as it could be argued that the hairs or fibres could have found their way into the cooking fat after purchase.

4. Prepacked pork sausage meat from a multiple store was found, on opening, to be sour. The sausage meat was returned and the money refunded. On inspection of the remaining stock in the store some further prepacked sausage meat was also found to be sour. The whole of the stock was withdrawn and surrendered for destruction.

5. A sliver of wood was found in a packet of potato crisps. The manufacturers informed me that an investigation revealed that the sliver of wood entered the packet during the packaging operation. The wood was similar in colour to the crisps and it had escaped the various inspections and quality control precautions taken at the factory.

6. A packet of sausages, made by a national manufacturer, was purchased from a shop and, on opening the packet the same day, the sausages were found to be mouldy and sour smelling. An inspection at the shop revealed that sausages were kept in a display cabinet, not refrigerated during opening hours. At night the sausages and other cooked meats were placed in a refrigerator until the following day. This procedure is to be deplored and is contrary to the manufacturer's own recommendations for the storage of their products. The shop manager was warned and a request made to the company to provide a refrigerated display cabinet.

7. A public health inspector, on a routine inspection, found stale doughnuts in a cafe display cabinet. All stock was checked and the stale doughnuts surrendered and destroyed.

8. A piece of hide, with hair attached, was found in a steak and kidney pie purchased from a multiple store. The managing director of the manufacturing company was interviewed and he accepted responsibility on behalf of his firm for the foreign body. As a result instructions were issued to butchers to take greater care when preparing meat for pies. It was the practice to use imported frozen meat, and to cut it in its frozen state to enhance its keeping quality. The hide had apparently escaped attention due to being wrapped in a fold of neck meat.

9. An unopened bottle of milk, with dirt adhering to the inside was brought to the department. The bottle was opened in the presence of the dairy manager and the foreign body found to be hard and gritty. A full inspection of the plant was made. The firm was warned and their attention drawn to the desirability of having a "spotter" on the bottling line.

10. Two cartons of Camembert cheese, purchased from a supermarket, were found on opening to be in a liquid condition. The manager was interviewed and a small stock of this cheese examined. Two further cartons of cheese were found to be suspect and consequently the whole of the stock was withdrawn from sale.

11. A double-layer lemon cake was purchased from a local store and was found to be mouldy. The retailers stated that they received delivery of this cake from the manufacturers two days previously. On investigation it was found that they had no system of stock rotation and consequently could not show when the cake was delivered. They were warned to rotate similar commodities correctly in future.

12. Bristles were found in two bottles of milk supplied to a school by a local dairy. The County Public Health Inspector investigated this complaint.

13. A loaf of white bread, purchased from a local shop, contained a metal screw. The screw was identified as an Allen grub screw $\frac{3}{16}$ in. B.S.F. which was not a type used in the bakery. The bakery had recently installed a fully automatic plant and a thorough investigation was made to find the source of entry. The moulder panners, incorporated in the new plant, were, in fact, the first of their type. This type of grub screw was found to be used in certain parts of the moulder panners and it is possible that it came from this source. Since this complaint the machinery has been modified. The bakery management had informed their engineers of the complaint. The latter had been instructed to be most careful when carrying out adjustments or maintenance of the plant.

14. Crumpets with mould spots on the inside ones were purchased from a supermarket. This appeared to be a case of unsatisfactory packaging and storage as the crumpets were wrapped in two cellophane packs instead of one. The coding on the pack showed that they were quite fresh. Possibly the crumpets had been badly packed the first time and then sent through the wrapping machine a second time. The manufacturers were unable to give a reason for the mould spots.

(d) *Ice-cream*

The number of premises registered under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the storage and sale of ice-cream is 85.

Frequent visits were made to the foregoing premises to enforce the provisions of the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1959, and for the purpose of sampling. Regarding sampling, 37 samples of ice-cream and 11 of "soft" ice-cream were taken.

ICE-CREAM							
Grade 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	32 satisfactory
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 satisfactory
Grade 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 unsatisfactory
Grade 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 unsatisfactory
"SOFT" ICE-CREAM							
Grade 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 satisfactory
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 satisfactory

(e) *Food Hygiene*

The following table gives details of food premises in the area:

Types of Premises	No. of Premises	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16 F. H. Regs. 1960	No. of Premises to which Reg. 19 applies F.H. Regs. 1960	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19 F. H. Regs. 1960
Bakehouses	7	7	7	7
Butchers	19	19	19	19
Catering	52	52	52	52
Confectioners	11	11	11	11
Fishmongers & Poulterers	7	7	7	7
Fried Fish	6	6	6	6
Food Factories	6	6	6	6
Greengrocers	16	16	16	16
Grocers	47	47	47	47
Licensed Premises ...	46	46	46	46
Off Licences	8	8	8	8
Supermarkets	6	6	6	6
Sweet and Mineral ...	28	28	22	22
	259	259	253	253

The following premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:

Premises	No.	Registered
Butchers	15	for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, or potted, pickled, pressed or preserved food
Food factories	1	
Grocers	1	
Butcher	2	for the pickling of meat
Fishmongers	1	for the preservation of fish
Grocers	4	for the cooking of ham
Grocer	1	for the roasting of chickens
Fishmonger	1	for the roasting of chickens
Grocers	26	storage and sale of ice cream
Greengrocers	7	storage and sale of ice cream
Confectioners (sweets) ...	21	storage and sale of ice cream
General premises	27	storage and sale of ice cream
Supermarkets	4	storage and sale of ice cream

The following improvements were carried out during the year to premises used for preparation, sale, etc., of food:

PREMISES USED FOR THE PREPARATION, SALE, ETC., OF FOOD

Washing facilities:

No. of new wash-hand basins provided	...	...	...	...	5
No. of new sinks provided	...	...	...	...	4
No. of fittings provided with running hot and cold water	...	...	...	...	13
No. of trapped waste pipes provided	...	...	...	...	9
No. of double sink units provided	...	...	...	...	2

Structural Work:

No. of rooms where walls repaired or improved	...	...	...	...	5
No. of rooms where ceilings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	2
No. of rooms where floor repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	5
No. of rooms where walls decorated	...	...	...	...	12
No. of rooms where ceilings decorated	...	...	...	...	13
No. of rooms where woodwork, etc., decorated	...	...	...	...	14
No. of rooms where new floor covering provided	...	...	...	...	3

Equipment:

No. of premises where new equipment provided	...	...	...	...	2
No. of premises where equipment renovated	...	...	...	...	3
No. of premises where new counter tops installed	...	...	...	...	2

Food Hygiene:

No. of premises where suitable sterilising agent provided	...	...	...	...	1
No. of premises where soap and towels provided	...	...	...	...	11
No. of rooms where walls and floors, etc., cleansed	14

shops - Sanitary Accommodation:

W.C.s cleansed	5
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(f) *Kitchen Utensils - Bacteriological Swabs*

During 1967, 33 visits were made to food-preparing premises and 130 swabs of kitchen utensils were taken for bacteriological examination.

Each swab is cultivated for two different times and temperatures, and bacterial counts made. No official standard is laid down but a utensil is regarded as satisfactory if the average of both counts is not more than 100 organisms per utensil and faecal coliform is absent. Eighty-eight samples passed the unofficial standard and 42 failed.

Utensil-cleaning techniques are constantly under supervision.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1967

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT - I. INSPECTION FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	187	60	5	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	5	1	-	-
TOTAL	197	65	5	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prose- cutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors S.6	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	4	4	-	1	-
TOTAL	11	11	-	1	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	Number of outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (e)	Number of cases of default in sending list to the Council	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	Number of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecu- tions
Clothing manufacture	33	-	-	-	-	-

SECTION " F "

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES Infectious Diseases (Corrected Hitchin U.D. - Age Distribution)

Diseases	Total Cases Notified	Cases After Correction	Under 1 year	1 -	2 -	3 -	4 -	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and Over	Age Un-known
Whooping Cough	8	-	-	-	1	1	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	450	-	14	59	59	80	73	158	4	2	1	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever ...	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	462	-	14	59	60	81	73	166	5	2	2	-	-	-

HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT - TUBERCULOSIS

No. on Register at 31st December, 1967:

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	67	35	102
Non-pulmonary	14	11	25
	81	46	127

No. Removed from Register during 1967:

	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
Deaths	-	-	-	-	-
Other (cured, re-diagnosed transfers of area, etc.) ...	1	-	-	-	1
	1	-	-	-	1

Additions to Register during 1967:

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
New Notifications	5	3	-	-	8
Other (cases restored to Register, transfers, etc.)	-	1	-	-	1
	5	4	-	-	9

New Notifications:

Age Groups:	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
5-9	-	-	-	-	-
10-14	-	-	-	-	-
15-19	-	-	-	-	-
20-24	-	-	-	-	-
25-34	-	1	-	-	1
35-44	1	-	-	-	1
45-54	1	1	-	-	2
55-64	1	-	-	-	1
65-74	1	-	-	-	1
	4	2	-	-	6

